

**PASSAGE THROUGH TIME
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA LIBRARY
1957-1997**



PASSAGE THROUGH TIME

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA LIBRARY : 1957 - 1997

PENERBITAN RASMI



1997

PASSAGE THROUGH TIME



UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA LIBRARY 1957 - 1997

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya



A507342852



1997

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MESSAGE

Tan Sri Dato' Dr Haji Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad
Vice-Chancellor
University of Malaya



Saya merasa amat gembira kerana Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya berjaya menghasilkan satu buku peringatan buat julung-julung kalinya sempena perasmian bangunan tambahan Perpustakaan dan *Colloquium on Academic Library Information Resources for Southeast Asian Scholarship*.

Di antara faktor-faktor penting yang membolehkan sesebuah institusi pengajian tinggi berada di barisan hadapan ilmu pengetahuan serta berjaya menghasilkan tenaga mahir yang terlatih adalah gedung ilmu dan khazanahnya. Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya merupakan satu-satunya perpustakaan universiti yang terbesar di rantau ini. Sumber maklumat yang terdapat di sini meliputi bidang-bidang ilmu yang amat luas, dalam bentuk bercetak dan elektronik (iaitu monograf, jurnal dan pangkalan data CD-ROM dan Internet) yang relevan dan terkini. Nyata sumber perpustakaan menyokong kegiatan pengajaran, pembelajaran dan penyelidikan bagi pengeluaran graduan-graduan yang pintar, kreatif dan inovatif.

Dengan ruang yang lebih selesa, koleksi yang komprehensif dan kakitangan yang berkelayakan, berkemahiran serta profesional, Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya mampu melangkah dengan lebih giat lagi ke era teknologi maklumat. Proses pengkomputeran untuk Perpustakaan yang bermula sejak 1989 meliputi perkhidmatan pembaca, rujukan dan pengurusan. Saya percaya Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya dan cawangan-cawangan khas yang terdapat di seluruh kampus akan terus giat untuk mempertingkatkan perkhidmatan, sumber rujukan dan kemudahan yang disediakan.

Syabas kepada semua yang telah bertugas dengan begitu gigih dan tekun untuk menghasilkan *Buku Komemoratif Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya*.

Terima kasih.

Yang benar,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A - Sanusi Ahmad'.

TAN SRI DATO' DR HJ ABDULLAH SANUSI AHMAD
Naib Canselor

MESSAGE

*Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar
Chairman of The Library Committee
University of Malaya*



Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Bagi pihak Jawatankuasa Perpustakaan saya mengucapkan syabas atas penerbitan buku peringatan Perpustakaan Universiti yang pertama kalinya dihasilkan.

Perpustakaan memainkan peranan yang penting dalam infrastruktur akademik sesebuah universiti. Ia boleh dianggap sebagai “nadi” yang berfungsi sebagai daya penggerak dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran di sesebuah universiti.

Untuk memastikan proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran yang bermutu Perpustakaan perlu dilibatkan secara aktif dalam proses tersebut. Strategi yang berdasarkan kepada sumber-sumber maklumat yang terdapat di Perpustakaan akan menghasilkan pelajar-pelajar yang pintar, berdikari dan berinisiatif, manakala di kalangan pensyarah pula strategi pengajaran yang berdasarkan kepada sumber-sumber maklumat yang terdapat di Perpustakaan akan memperkayakan lagi strategi-strategi pengajaran dan akhirnya memanfaatkan pelajar-pelajar yang dididik.

Namun begitu sama ada Perpustakaan dapat memainkan peranan sebagai ‘catalyst’ dalam mempertingkatkan strategi pengajaran dan pembelajaran ini banyak bergantung kepada koleksi yang terdapat di Perpustakaan, perkhidmatan yang ditawarkan dan kemudahan yang disediakan. Koleksi yang relevan dan luas dari segi skop dan bidang, perkhidmatan yang mementingkan pengguna, kemudahan-kemudahan yang canggih seperti makmal komputer, alat-alat CD-ROM dan ruang yang selesa dan nyaman amatlah penting.

Sebagai Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Perpustakaan, saya dan ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Perpustakaan yang lain sedar tentang perkara-perkara di atas dan seberapa mana yang boleh, cuba membantu Perpustakaan mencapai objektif-objektifnya.

Adalah diharapkan bangunan baru yang akan dirasmikan pada 3 November 1997 ini dapat mengurangkan masalah ruang yang dihadapi oleh Perpustakaan selama ini. Dengan adanya ruang yang lebih luas, jurnal-jurnal yang selama ini terasing dari koleksi lain, akan disatukan dalam satu bangunan. Ini akan memudahkannya penggunaan oleh para pelajar dan pensyarah.

Bagi pihak ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Perpustakaan, saya ingin memberi jaminan bahasa Jawatankuasa Perpustakaan akan bekerjasama untuk memastikan Perpustakaan berjaya dalam segala aktiviti demi kepentingan Universiti Malaya.

Yang benar,



PROFESOR DATO' DR OSMAN BAKAR

Timbalan Naib Canselor (Akademik)

Selaku Pengerusi Jawatan Kuasa Perpustakaan

MESSAGE

*Dr Zaiton Osman
Chief Librarian
University of Malaya*



Assalamualaiikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Umur Perpustakaan telah mencapai 40 tahun sejak bertapak di Kuala Lumpur dan inilah pertama kalinya sebuah buku peringatan diterbitkan sebagai rekod sejarah dan perkembangannya. Saya merasa sungguh bangga kerana dapat menyumbang sepatah dua kata dalam buku peringatan ini.

Penerbitan ini mengambil kesempatan perasmian bangunan baru dan pelancaran *Colloquium on Academic Library Information Resources for Southeast Asian Scholarship* pada 3 November 1997. Dalam masa 40 tahun ini, Perpustakaan telah menempuhi banyak perubahan. Koleksinya telah meningkat kepada jumlah 1, 212, 681 jilid, bentuk katalognya pula telah berubah dari "stripdex" ke "OPAC" dan IT telah dijadikan jentera bagi segala operasi pinjaman, perkhidmatan dan pengurusan Perpustakaan. Pembelajaran dan penyelidikan di Perpustakaan telah dipermudahkan dengan adanya pangkalan-pangkalan data Internet, CD-ROM dan talian-terus. Dengan adanya juga alat-alat dan perkakasan yang canggih, aktiviti-aktiviti akademik dapat dilaksanakan dengan cepat dan berkesan.

Kakitangan-kakitangan yang pro-aktif dan berdedikasi amatlah penting dalam sesebuah organisasi. Adalah diharapkan dengan kakitangan-kakitangan yang bersikap sedemikian, misi Perpustakaan yang berbunyi,

"Untuk menjadi sebuah Perpustakaan Akademik Perdana dengan koleksi dan perkhidmatan maklumat yang cemerlang sebagai memenuhi misi Universiti Malaya"

akan dapat dikotakan.

Akhirkata, saya mengucapkan syabas kepada kakitangan-kakitangan yang terlibat kerana berjaya menerbitkan buku peringatan ini, pada pertama kalinya.

Yang benar,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Zaiton Osman'.

DR ZAITON OSMAN
Ketua Pustakawan

LIBRARY'S MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

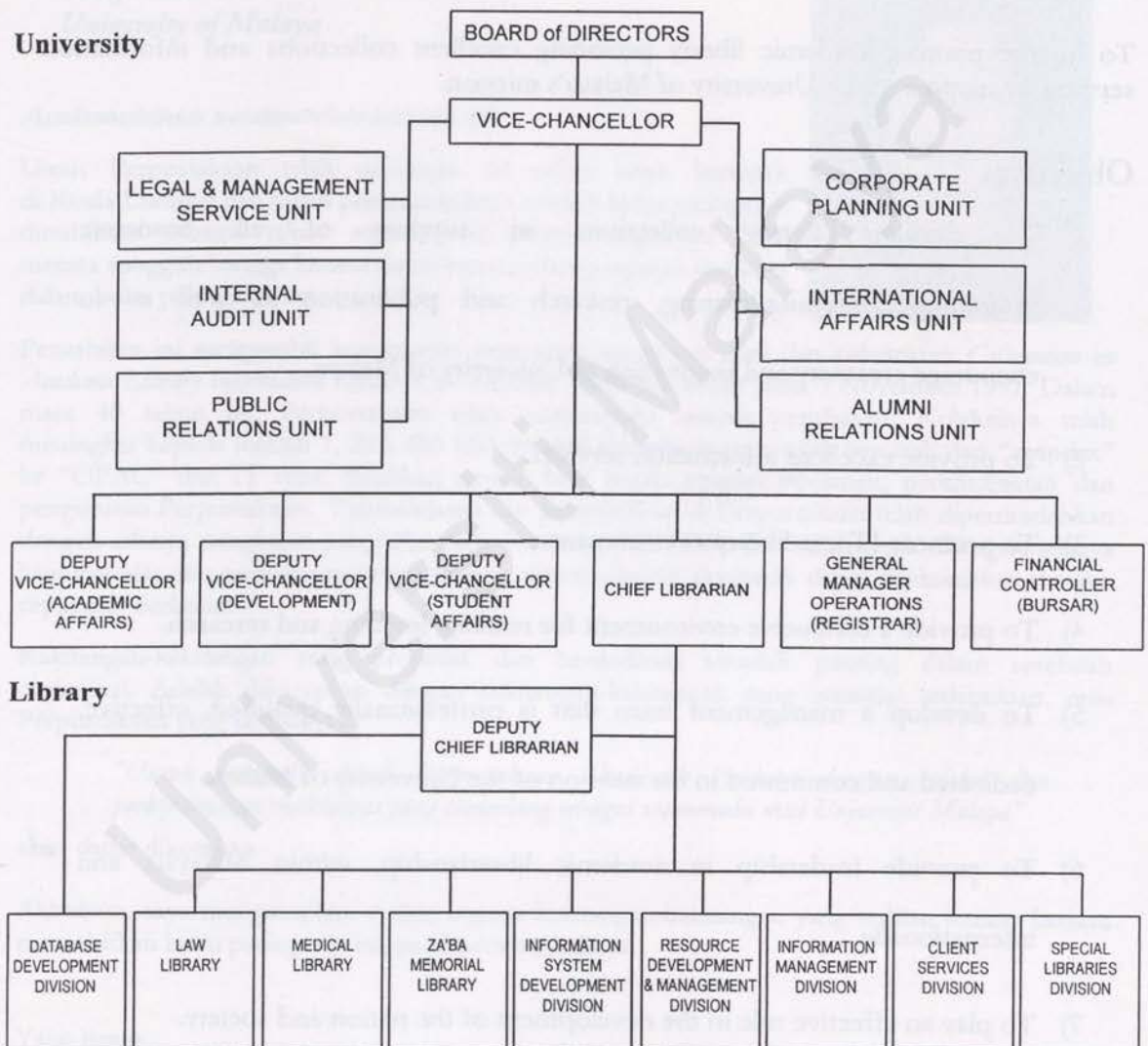
Mission Statement

To be the premier academic library providing excellent collections and information services in support of the University of Malaya's mission.

Objectives

- 1) To develop library collections in support of all academic programmes: teaching-learning, research and publication as well as to encourage creativity and innovation in University of Malaya.
- 2) To provide excellent information services.
- 3) To promote IT in a library environment.
- 4) To provide a conducive environment for reading, learning and research.
- 5) To develop a management team that is professionally qualified, effective, dedicated and committed to the mission of the University of Malaya.
- 6) To provide leadership in academic librarianship, within Malaysia and internationally.
- 7) To play an effective role in the development of the nation and society.

Organisational Structure



THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



Library Committee 1997/1998

The Library's records indicate that the first Library Committee meeting was held on 20th April 1959. The six member Committee discussed matters pertaining to the allocation of the Library grant for that year, Library staff matters, transfer of books from Singapore and its relationship with the Library in Singapore.

The important role undertaken by the Library Committee in the management of the Library has ensured its continued existence to this day. Act 15 of the University of Malaya enumerates in detail the composition of the Library Committee, its functions and powers. The Library Committee has over the years been actively involved in framing policies and major decisions, providing technical expertise, moral support, guidance in overcoming major financial and other problems and in providing advice on the introduction of new services or major projects for the Library. The Library Committee has also been instrumental to a certain extent in fostering two way communication between the Library and the various Departments and Faculties of the University of Malaya. Undoubtedly, the Library Committee has served laudably in aiding the Library meet the varied demands of its users and it shall continue to play a key role in paving the way for the Library to counter the myriad challenges the next millennium has to offer.

MESSAGES FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar
Chairman

Bagi pihak ahli-ahli Jawatan Kuasa, saya ingin memberi jaminan bahawa Jawatan Kuasa Perpustakaan akan bekerjasama untuk memastikan Perpustakaan berjaya dalam segala aktivitinya demi kepentingan Universiti Malaya.



Dr Zaiton Osman
Secretary

Peranan wakil-wakil Fakulti/Akademi/Pusat amatlah penting dalam memastikan tanggungjawab Perpustakaan terhadap pelajar dan pensyarah dilaksanakan.

Penglibatan wakil-wakil secara aktif dalam penggubalan dasar bagi Perpustakaan sungguh berkesan dan membolehkan Perpustakaan bergerak maju tanpa banyak masalah.



Abdul Kadir Haji Muhammad
Representative of the Academy of Islamic Studies



Penyelidikan dan pengkajian merupakan satu ciri penting dalam pembelajaran di institusi pengajian tinggi. Atas asas inilah ditubuhkan perpustakaan di institusi pengajian tinggi. Tanpa perpustakaan yang lengkap baik di segi koleksi yang sempurna dan ruang yang mencukupi akan menyebabkan terbantutnya mutu pembelajaran di sesebuah institusi pengajian tinggi. Menyedari hakikat ini pihak pengurusan Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya telah berusaha membangun koleksinya bagi memenuhi keperluan rujukan bagi kursus-kursus yang ditawarkan di universiti ini. Alhamdulillah dengan semangat berkerja secara berpasukan oleh kakitangan, Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya boleh dikatakan antara perpustakaan yang mempunyai koleksi terlengkap dalam berbagai bidang bukan sahaja dapat memenuhi keperluan kursus pengajian yang ditawarkan di Universiti ini, malah dapat memenuhi keperluan para penyelidik luar. Tidak hairanlah kalau perpustakaan ini menjadi tumpuan para penyelidik luar dari berbagai sektor.

Pertambahan bahan dan pengguna menyebabkan ruang yang sedia ada tidak dapat menampung keperluan untuk masa-masa mendatang. Bagi menampung keperluan tersebut, pihak pengurusan perpustakaan telah merancang penambahan ruang sesuai dengan perkembangan yang berlaku di universiti ini. Hasil kerjasama yang terjalin erat antara pihak pengurusan perpustakaan dengan lain-lain badan pengurusan di Universiti, maka apa yang dicita-citakan oleh pihak perpustakaan itu telah menjadi realiti sebagaimana yang kita saksikan pada hari ini. Moga-moga apa yang disediakan oleh pihak perpustakaan dapat dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya oleh para pengguna di Universiti ini.

Sempena dengan pembukaan rasmi ruang tambahan oleh YB Tan Sri Dr Haji Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad, Naib Canselor Universiti Malaya, 'saya' sebagai Ahli Jawatan Kuasa Perpustakaan yang juga pernah berkhidmat di perpustakaan ini 'mengucapkan setinggi *tabniat* kepada pihak Perpustakaan' yang di bawah pimpinan Ketua Perpustakaan Puan Dr Zaiton Osman kerana berjaya memberi perkhidmatan yang berkesan kepada warga universiti khususnya dan dapat meletakkan Perpustakaan ini antara rangkaian perpustakaan terkenal di rantau ini khasnya dan di dunia umumnya.

Abdul Samad bin Abdul Ghani
Representative of the Faculty of Law

Ilmu dan budi kalung bistari
Anak-bangsa berilmu berbakti
Cendikia dan satria serata negeri
Kelak cemerlang nusa pertiwi

Anak kelah di tepi pengkalan
Di langit tinggi terbangnya helang
Doa pada Allah kita panjatkan
Agar Perpustakaan Utama mekar gemilang



Associate Professor Dr Azhar Hj Hussin
Representative of the Faculty of Science

On the New UM Library building

The new building with its new appearance is more than an additional space for the library: it symbolises the expansion of the functions and the increasing importance of the role of the Library in education. Multimedia and other electronic databases complement books, journals and other printed articles as resources for learning. Where small windows placed high towards the ceiling in the old building, large windows are prominent in the new building. Where users of the past can be totally engrossed in their own study, users now can look beyond the confines of the Library walls to the larger world outside where knowledge gained should be applied and utilised for the community.



Dr Diljit Singh
*Representative of the Faculty of Computer Science &
 Information Technology*



The opening of the extension to the University of Malaya Library is a significant accomplishment in the Library's development. *Congratulations and thank you* to all those who have made it possible. Let us use it as a stepping stone to achieve even greater heights in the years ahead, and become a truly world-class library.

Associate Professor Dr Hashim Awang A.R.
Representative of the Academy of Malay Studies



Syukur ke hadrat Allah S.W.T. kerana Perpustakaan Utama akhirnya telah mendapat bangunan tambahan barunya. Sebagai mengenang jasa Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya, saya ungkapkan tiga rangkap pantun.

*Buah cempedak dipotong dadu
 Mari dijual di pasar tamu
 Jika hendak mengenal orang berilmu
 Bertanya belajar tiadalah jemu*

*Mari dijual di pasar tamu
 Kuih gulung zaman dahulu
 Bertanya belajar tiadalah jemu
 Di Perpustakaan gedung segala ilmu*

*Kuih gulung zaman dahulu
 Dibeli gadis sambil menjeling
 Di Perpustakaan gedung segala ilmu
 Mercu tanda di menara gading*

Associate Professor Dr Hazar Bebe Mohd Ismail
Representative of the Foundation Science Centre

Berpuas hati dan berbangga dengan perkembangan dalam berbagai aspek yang telah dicapai oleh Perpustakaan UM semenjak kebelakangan ini. Bangunan Perpustakaan yang tersergam indah dan menempatkan khazanah ilmu yang terunggul di Malaysia, seharusnya menjadi kebanggaan masyarakat kampus ini. Dengan dedikasi semua, Perpustakaan kita bukan sahaja akan menjadi tumpuan para pelajar dan para akademik tetapi sebagai pusat rujukan negara.



Associate Professor Dr Khadijah Rohani Mohd Yunus
Representative of the Faculty of Education

Sesungguhnya bangunan Perpustakaan yang tersergam indah ini akan menjadi nadi pendorong kepada para pelajar Universiti Malaya memupuk dan menghidupkan ilmu dan budaya membaca serta berfikir di kalangan mereka dan seterusnya membolehkan Universiti Malaya menampilkan generasi ilmunan dan teknokrat yang cemerlang. Syabas dan semoga Allah S.W.T. memberkati segala usaha dan cita-cita murni kita semua untuk menyediakan suasana pendidikan yang berkualiti serta memenuhi hala tuju wawasan negara.



Dr Maya Khemlani David
Representative of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics

As I chair the Library Committee in the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics and also represented the Faculty in the Main Library, it has been easier to understand and communicate to Faculty staff the financial constraints the Main Library works under.



Dr Michael Ong Ah Hup
Representative of the Faculty of Dentistry



New Dental Library

The Dental Library, which is located at the Faculty of Dentistry, is part of the University of Malaya Library System. This old library became part of the system in 1988 on the second floor of Block B of the Faculty of Dentistry. A new Dental Library has been completed in 1997 with bigger space to accommodate more students and academic staff. The proposal that this new Dental Library be upgraded to the status of a branch library instead of being a unit in the Special Libraries Division should be warmly received as the library facilities and services have now included postgraduate services for the many different Master and Fellowship programmes. All books and information relevant to Dentistry are kept at the new Dental Library to make it a Centre of excellence not only in the University of Malaya but also among the universities in Malaysia. Any of the medical, science or pharmacy students can come to this Centre to seek information related to this important field as new advancement of knowledge such as lasers, implants, new dental materials or drugs are being constantly added to the various fields of dentistry.

Activities

It is said that the dental profession is an integral part of the health care team in the community. It has the specific responsibility for orofacial tissues and their function and a joint responsibility with the other health professions to integrate dental and oral health into the total health care programme of the community. The Faculty of Dentistry in the University of Malaya since 1972 provides educational programmes at the undergraduate level for a high standard of dental health care. It has now expanded and developed in recent years to include postgraduate level preparing for specialisation and research. Besides teaching, books and information relevant to postgraduate studies have been added to assist in reaching the high standards in the academic and practical aspects of dentistry. After graduation, general dental practitioners are also encouraged to seek new knowledge in our continuing education programmes, including usage of library facilities, and to develop their area of specialised interest within their practice.

Contributions

As a University Library Committee member for the Faculty of Dentistry, I have attended regular meetings, requested for relevant journals, books and educational programmes at

both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I have made suggestions for the new Dental Library such as having more photostat machines, computers and newspapers for the convenience of our users.

More undergraduate and postgraduate students are now using the new Dental Library and would like to have more time after office hours to use the library. I have therefore asked for more staff this year so as to extend the opening hours and to make the Library conducive for studies and research. Our aim is to make the Dental Library the best in Malaysia and possibly in the South East Asian region. Under the able leadership of our Chief Librarian, Dr Zaiton Osman and Head of Medical Library, YM Tunku Noraidah Tuanku Abdul Rahman, I am sure the Dental Library will fulfill its objectives.

With challenging educational opportunities and exciting developments at the Dental Faculty and the University of Malaya, I look forward to the increasing scope of activities in all fields of dentistry. I would like to thank the Dean, Professor Dato' Dr Hashim Yaacob for his kind support, and to our Chief Librarian, Dr Zaiton Osman and to all my colleagues in the University Library Committee I wish them well in the future development of the University of Malaya Library. *Best wishes for this commemorative issue!*

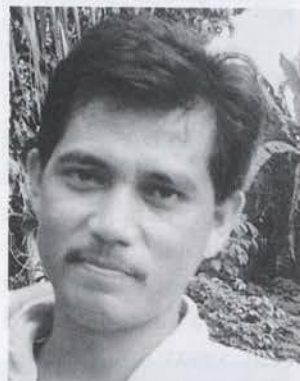
Mohd Salleh Aman

Representative of the Sports Centre

Tambahan bangunan baru Perpustakaan menyediakan ruang membaca dan mengurus yang lebih kondusif. Wajah hadapannya yang unik, menarik pandangan siapa sahaja yang melalui lingkungan budi. Pelanggan yang berkunjungpun kian bertambah, kerana mereka tahu di dalam bangunan ini terisi pelbagai sumber ilmu berupa bahan cetak dan elektronik.

Saya percaya gedung ilmu ini akan terus menyumbang kepada pembangunan dan kemajuan Universiti. Bermula sebagai seorang pelajar pada tahun 1982, saya telah menggunakan Perpustakaan ini dengan sepenuhnya. Tahun demi tahun dapat dilihat jumlah buku, majalah, penggunaan komputer dan mutu pengurusan meningkat maju. Kemajuan ini wajar disokong oleh semua ahli agar dapat menggunakan Perpustakaan dengan bijaksana dan mengikut peraturannya.

Sebagai Ahli Jawatan Kuasa Perpustakaan, saya akan terus menyumbang ide dan menyokong usaha pihak pengurusan Perpustakaan dan Universiti untuk menghadapi era korporat. Setakat ini hanya terdapat dua buah buku kajian saya di dalam Perpustakaan ini



iaitu, 'Socio-demografi dan penempatan bandar Jasin' dan 'Hubungan antara penglibatan dalam sukan dan pencapaian akademik' Harapan saya, sumbangan kecil ini menjadi permulaan terhadap usaha seterusnya.

Kepada semua pelajar Universiti Malaya, khususnya pelajar-pelajar Sains Sukan, tetapkan jadual anda mengunjungi Perpustakaan untuk membuat rujukan, mentelaah dan mengulang-kaji. Di sini terkumpulnya sumber ilmu yang amat tinggi, dalam, luas dan tiada sempadan, yang menunggu-nunggu kedatangan anda. Sesungguhnya penggunaan perpustakaan adalah komponen penting dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran di universiti.

Associate Professor Dr Nor Azila Mohd Adam
Representative of the Faculty of Medicine

Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pihak Perpustakaan kerana diberi kesempatan untuk merakamkan sepatah dua kata dalam penerbitan khas ini sempena perasmian Bangunan Tambahan Perpustakaan Utama.



Sementara kita sibuk dengan urusan hidup dan kerja seharian, pelbagai peristiwa penting telah berlalu tanpa disedari. Sebagai salah seorang ahli Jawatan Kuasa Perpustakaan sejak 1985 dan seorang pengguna kemudahan Perpustakaan Universiti ini sejak 1977, saya telah menyaksikan perkembangan perkhidmatan Perpustakaan yang berubah daripada menyediakan bahan rujukan yang berasaskan kertas kepada media elektronik yang mengandungi maklumat yang lebih padat dan lebih cekap.

Saya ingin mengucapkan *tahniah dan syabas* kepada pucuk pimpinan Perpustakaan dan pihak pengurusan kerana telah berupaya mempertingkatkan kemudahan kepada para penggunanya yang bukan sahaja terdiri daripada para akademik dan bilangan penuntut yang sentiasa meningkat di institusi ini, tetapi juga masyarakat umum, pada masa-masa tertentu. Dengan meningkatnya bilangan para pengguna, tentu sekali kecekapan dan kecanggihan perkhidmatan yang diberi harus dipertingkatkan. Dengan terbinanya bangunan tambahan baru yang tersergam indah ini serta peralatannya yang canggih, maka lebih mudahlah para pengguna dapat mengaut ilmu yang terpendam dan sentiasa berkembang, di dalam suasana yang amat selesa. Perpustakaan sekarang bukan sahaja menyediakan bahan maklumat tetapi juga bilik-bilik untuk perbincangan dan juga kawasan khas untuk pengguna-pengguna yang memerlukan bantuan khas.

Perpustakaan adalah salah satu tunjang yang penting dalam proses yang akhirnya akan melahirkan individu yang berilmu dan cemerlang.

Dalam surah Az-Zummar ayat 9, tertulis ayat yang bermaksud:-

“Adakah sama orang-orang yang mengetahui dengan orang-orang yang tidak mengetahui? Sesungguhnya orang yang berakallah yang mendapat bimbingan”

*Associate Professor Obaidellah Mohamad
Representative of the Department of Chinese Studies*



Perpustakaan merupakan tempat rujukan untuk memperluaskan ilmu pengetahuan. Peranannya bukan sekadar menyimpan dokumen dan buku, bahkan untuk mengisi ilmu di dada dan dengan itu kita perlu berdamping dengannya.

Sekiranya kita menggunakannya dengan sebaik mungkin, ia dapat membuka minda kita, dan membina insan yang berpengetahuan luas. Jadilah manusia yang tahu katakan tahu, tidak tahu katakan tidak tahu. Itu adalah pengakuan ilmu pengetahuan.

Jadikanlah Perpustakaan ini sebagai sahabat karib kita. Selalulah berdamping dengannya, banyak membaca, berfikir dan menulis, semoga menjadi manusia yang berilmu. Dengan adanya kecanggihan teknologi elektronik, ia dapat menyumbangkan pelbagai kemudahan informasi dan pengurusan perpustakaan, bahkan ia dapat hubungkan gedung ilmu di seluruh dunia.

Kita berharap para pengguna Perpustakaan ini dapat menggunakannya sebaik mungkin. Sama-samalah kita menjaga kebajikannya, agar mendapat manfaat bersama .

Pan Kok Chang
Representative of the Cultural Centre



Tabiah saya ucapkan kepada rakan-rakan saya di Perpustakaan UM atas kejayaan mereka memajukan serta meningkatkan lagi perkhidmatan Perpustakaan di kampus UM. Dengan adanya peralatan yang lebih canggih serta ruang tempat yang lebih luas, adalah harapan saya agar Perpustakaan UM kini dapat menampung keperluan masyarakat kampus UM dengan lebih efisien dan efektif.

Sememangnya tujuan dan fungsi utama perpustakaan ialah sebagai gedung pengetahuan dan pusat rujukan di mana para pelajar dan cendakiawan dapat menjalankan aktiviti pembelajaran dan penyelidikan mereka. Pengalaman saya sebagai seorang pengguna perkhidmatan Perpustakaan UM selama lebih kurang 10 tahun merupakan suatu pengalaman yang memuaskan dan agak menyeronokkan juga. Sebagai seorang pencinta, pendidik dan pengkaji seni muzik, ingin saya menyatakan di sini bahawa koleksi buku, jurnal serta rakaman bunyi dalam bidang seni muzik di Perpustakaan UM merupakan salah satu koleksi yang paling sempurna di negara kita.

Sejak saya mula berkhidmat di UM, pihak Perpustakaan telah memberi perhatian kepada permohonan buku serta bahan-bahan lain dari Pusat Kebudayaan. Ini membuktikan bahawa pihak pentadbiran Perpustakaan adalah peka dan prihatin kepada keperluan-keperluan kami walaupun pada masa itu Pusat Kebudayaan belum ada program akademik yang formal. Adalah menjadi harapan saya bahawa dengan bermulanya program akademik di Pusat Kebudayaan pada sesi 97/98, kerjasama serta sokongan yang seumpama ini akan dipertingkatkan lagi.

Semoga Perpustakaan UM akan terus berkembang maju sealiran dengan peningkatan kecemerlangan UM sebagai institusi pengajian tinggi yang terulung di Malaysia pada abad ke-21.

*Associate Professor Dr Sam Choon Kook
Representative of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies and
Research*



**The Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSP)
Library**

"What is the IPSP library to you?" I asked the academic staff, general staff and the post-graduate students. "I look up references, I have my quiet moments of reading and thinking, I do my Internet search, I read the newspapers during the lunch hour," came the replies. "Why do you go to the IPSP library so often?" I asked them. "Because there are many new books, because it is a nice place to be, because the innovative and enthusiastic librarian and her staff are always there to help when you have a problem with computer searching". I conclude from my little survey that we in IPSP not only go to the IPSP Library to get some work done, we also go there for its efficient and friendly environment.

*Dr Tan Eu Chye
Representative of the Faculty of Economics*



Perkembangan Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya (PUM) seperti ini adalah sejajar dengan hasrat kerajaan untuk menjadikan Malaysia sebagai sebuah pusat pendidikan dan penyelidikan yang cemerlang serta terkenal di arena antarabangsa. Menurut penelitian saya, PUM telah mencapai kemodenan yang pesat dalam kemudahan-kemudahannya pada tahun-tahun kebelakangan ini di bawah pimpinan Dr Zaiton. Syabas kepada Universiti Malaya dan negara.



Usaha yang paling baik ialah usaha orang yang bekerja dengan ikhlas

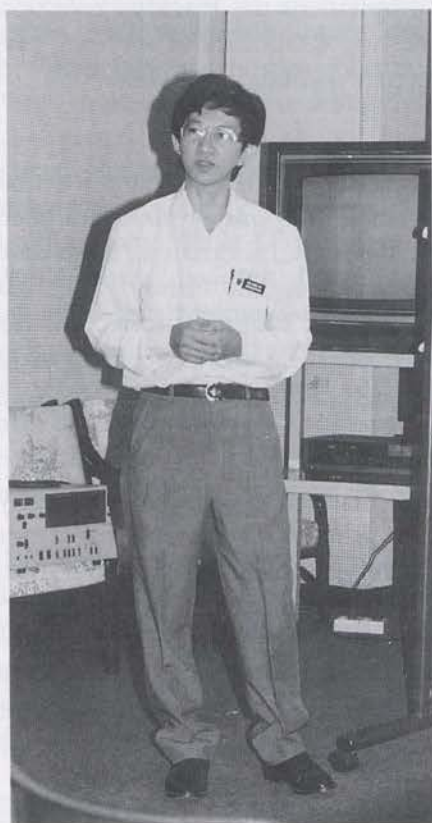
~Riwayat Imam Ahmad

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA LIBRARY: 1957-1997

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Introduction

On 31 August 1997, our nation celebrated the fortieth anniversary of independence. Albeit with less pomp and pageantry, the University of Malaya Library (UML) also marked the fortieth anniversary of coming into being. This doyen of academic libraries in the country has come of age. Despite its age, the University of Malaya Library is still transforming, perhaps metamorphosing, to be accurate, with her present new look. It is ever growing and ever changing. In fact, with her recent facelift, its fourth to be exact, it is not an overstatement to say that it has come around 180° and undergone a major transformation, inside out. Life is starting anew at forty for her. It is projecting a new image for the more challenging times ahead, poised to face the onslaught of the Information Age.

The University of Malaya Library has expanded immensely in breadth and depth. Today, it is more a system of libraries than a library by itself. The

history of the University of Malaya Library spans a total of forty years. No words on paper can adequately deal with the whole of it and do it justice. Various accounts on its past and recent developments can be found scattered in a number of library journals, published proceedings of conferences and seminars, library handbooks and pamphlets. The Library newsletter, *Kekal Abadi*, is another good source of information. It is hoped that the list of selected articles appearing at the end of this paper, will help to fill in gaps

in information that is not provided here. By and large, much of the information presented here is extracted from the official annual reports of UML from 1957 to 1996.

The Establishment of the Library

The year 1957 saw the birth of a new nation. The Federation of Malaya became an independent and sovereign state. It also saw the establishment of the first institution of higher learning, the University of Malaya.

The Kuala Lumpur division of the University of Malaya, with its main campus in Singapore, was established in temporary premises at the Technical College. Students were admitted to its only faculty - the Faculty of Arts. To complement the teaching role of a new institution, a well equipped library with all its necessary facilities and services, was absolutely essential. Here begins the history of the University of Malaya Library.

The very first account on the establishment of the library reads, "Since August 1957, Mr. Beda Lim has been in Kuala Lumpur to supervise the setting up of a library for that Division. The ordering and processing of books for the Kuala Lumpur division has been handled from Singapore ...". Mr. Ernest H. Clark, the University Librarian at Singapore then, held the overall responsibility of planning and establishing the library. The first Librarian for the Kuala Lumpur division, Mr. Wilfred J. Plumbe, took up his appointment in October 1959, and with this, the tasks of ordering and processing were transferred from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur. The division library thus became autonomous from its parent library in Singapore.

From this humble beginning, UML has developed to become the largest academic library in the country. It is now more appropriate to refer to it as a library system, for it harbours within its setup a number of unique and special collections and branch libraries. Its multifarious collections of books and journals currently exceed one million volumes.

Its progress and development has been comparatively smooth sailing over the last forty years. Like most organizations, it had its share of problems and crisis, but none were serious enough to retard its growth.

In the early days of its inception, UML's main priority was to support teaching and research at the newly established university. This key role has not changed. Today, it remains steadfastly dedicated to this commitment which is reaffirmed in its mission statement:

"To be the premier academic library providing excellent collections and information services in support of the University of Malaya's mission."

Structure of the Library System

The University of Malaya Library has grown rapidly over the last four decades. No one could have envisaged it to evolve to the decentralised structure that it has attained today. Until 1963, there was no branch library situated physically away from the central library. Decentralisation was inevitable as some of the specialised professional courses, such as medicine and law, became taught disciplines in the University.

In 1964, the medical collection became the first to move out from the Main Library to form the core collection of a separate Medical Library. It occupied temporary premises in the Anatomy Museum, in the newly completed Faculty of Medicine. In 1965, the Medical Library moved to its present permanent location. There was an interval of ten years before another branch library was established. Outgrowing the space allocated for it in the Main Library, the law collection moved into the ground floor of the new Centre for Post Graduate Studies building in 1977, to form the new Law Library.

Not all the branch libraries of the University of Malaya Library system evolved in the same way as the Medical or Law Library. They have taken a different route of development. While UML provided library facilities for the whole campus and received all necessary funding from the University authorities for its tasks, some larger faculties/departments established their own libraries to cater more specifically to their own needs. Although some of these libraries were well managed, it became clear that to provide for more adequate and comprehensive services and facilities, a closer tie-up or link between these libraries and the mainstream University library system became inevitable. As a result, some of these libraries merged with the UML system, and came under the direct supervision of the Chief Librarian of the University.

The Engineering Library (EL) became the first faculty/departmental library to be absorbed in this manner in December 1984. At the time of joining the UML system, the EL already had a good collection of patents and standards, and other reference materials on engineering. However, the library lacked trained professional librarians to process its collection adequately and provide the necessary services. A professional librarian was appointed to run it for the first time upon its absorption into the UML system.

The Faculty of Languages and Linguistics (formerly Language Centre) Library was absorbed into the UML system in October 1986. It had a small but unique and useful collection which had definitely benefitted from a merger with the UML system. Since the merger, a professional librarian has been assigned to process its collection and provide service.

In 1987, the Faculty of Dentistry made a request for the establishment of a Dental Library. Until that time, a core dental collection was maintained in a reading room in the

Faculty. The collection was made up of items purchased by the Medical Library and sent on permanent loan to the Faculty of Dentistry. The Faculty was keen to have a good library facility manned by a professional librarian, and therefore undertook to provide adequate space in the Dental Faculty building for a full-fledged dental library. The University of Malaya Library administration was receptive to the idea, and the close cooperation from the Faculty facilitated the establishment of the Dental Library and its formal merger with the UML system at the end of 1988.

By that time, there were two notable libraries outside the UML system that had attained considerable success in terms of development and support services to their relevant faculties. These were the Faculty of Economics and Administration (FEA) Library and the Faculty of Education Library. Both received funding and support from the University to employ graduate officers and maintain a sizeable collection in their respective faculties. Long-term outlook for these libraries to remain autonomous outside the mainstream library system in the campus was not too promising. Library computerisation had played a role to hasten the need for both libraries to be integrated into the mainstream of the library services, as it would appear that having separate automated systems for both libraries is most unlikely. At the initiative of the Faculty of Education, its faculty library was allowed to become a part of the UML system on 27 September 1993. The FEA Library is a latecomer to UML's fold. However, its destiny seemed very closely tied to UML, and the latter has taken the initiative to extend its integrated library system to the FEA Library even before it became a part of the UML system. Network connection was established between the FEA Library and the Main Library of the UML system. Later, cataloguing information of the FEA Library became an integral input into UML's main bibliographic database. On 12 January 1996, the Faculty of Economics and Administration consented to its library being a part of the UML system.

Another branch library to come under the fold of the UML system is the Centre for Foundation Science Library (CFSL). The library merged with the Main Library in September 1994. Prior to that, it was maintained as a reading room within the Centre and staffed by a library clerk provided by UML. Supervision and control of the reading room was the responsibility of a faculty member of the Centre who was also a member of the Library Committee. Since 1995, the Chief Librarian has assigned a professional librarian to oversee the operations of the library.

The establishment of branch libraries coupled with the absorption of faculty and departmental libraries has created a system with a centralized administration but with decentralised units. This has been achieved with minimal disruption and yet, in effect, is an efficient system which enabled the UML system to minimise redundancies and duplication in collections and provide more effective library services to the campus community.

The Main Library Building

The Library together with its parent body, the Kuala Lumpur Division of the University of Malaya, began on borrowed premises, at the former Technical College, located at Gurney Road. The Division's Library was housed on the mezzanine floor of the Technical College Library building. These temporary arrangements lasted until 1959, when the present campus in Pantai Valley became ready for occupation. The cost of constructing the first phase of the Library building was met by a donation from the British Government, and was officiated on 15 December 1959.

With the simple early beginning until the occupation of the current extension phase on 18 May 1997, the Library has gone through four phases of expansion. These extensions were necessitated by the need to overcome space constraints to accommodate both the physical growth of the collection, as well as to provide adequate seating capacity for the students. Both these problems had continued to become a preoccupation of almost every administration of the Library.

Shortly after occupying the premises in 1959, plans were already afoot for the first extension to the building. Work on it started in May 1962 and by the following May 1963, the new extension was ready for occupation. Completion of the second phase saw the addition of 65,000 sq. ft. of floor space and increased the seating capacity. However, this did not resolve the seating problem as only 744 seats were available for a total of 4,560 students, and the number was rising. Approval was eventually given for another extension, the building's third phase, in the 1966/67 session. The new phase was to increase seating capacity to 1,500, an increase of 85 per cent. Actual construction on this extension only began in July 1968.

While this phase of construction was in progress, seating capacity within the Library was increased to 847 seats to cater to a student population that had increased to 5,300 following the 1968/69 intake. The completion of the third phase of the Library building provided only a temporary respite to an on-going problem, and did not solve the problem of overcrowding completely. An intake of 8,600 students in the 1971/72 session, further exacerbated by a registered student population of 8,748 in 1972/73, once again rendered the seating capacity to be inadequate.

Lack of shelving space also became a serious issue. A librarian's nightmare was becoming a reality, books could no longer find a dignified place on the stacks. The constant clamour for more space resulted in the approval for a fourth phase of the building extension. However, it was not an extension in the true sense of the word, but the additional space sought, would be part of a totally new building that was to be shared with the Centre for Postgraduate Studies and the Law Faculty. While waiting for the completion of the building, the problem of overcrowding was greatly alleviated when the

University converted several rooms in the new Siswarama building, situated close to the Faculty of Arts and the Library, into all-night unsupervised reading rooms with seats for a thousand students.

Work started on the new building in August 1975 and by April 1977, it was ready for occupation. The Library was given four floors of the tower block in the new building complex, to which it decided to house its Law Library and serials collection. The Library also decided to move the red spot collection over to the new building in view of the fact that the Institute of Advanced Studies had not yet been established. The shift of the Law, serials and red spot collections to the new building, brought a real breather to the perennial problem of space for books and readers, for the first time in many years. But, if one had thought that this had brought about a long-term solution to the problem, one could not be more wrong. The additional space created by the shift was only temporary, as yet again another 'big problem' cropped up during the 1983/84 review period - lack of space for books in the Main Library. By then, the stack problem had reached a critical stage, and the only feasible solution was for another extension to the building.

Funding for the extension was requested as part of a development grant under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995). A sum of RM10 million was approved in 1994 for the project. Work on this 'fifth' phase of the Library building started in the first quarter of 1995 and was completed in April 1997. Unlike previous extensions, this was not designed to be merely another extension to the existing library. A construction of a very contemporary design, it boasts a new facade fronting a new main entrance giving a more dignified appearance, and more attuned to the times. The Library building, even with this latest extension, is not every architect's dream of a good library building. Having undergone three phases of extension to the original building, differences in the design and construction have indeed left their definite marks, both internally and externally, on the Library. But looks and aesthetics aside, UML's new look symbolises its new stance and preparedness to reposition itself to play a more proactive role in a fast-changing information environment.

Allocation For Collection Development

The provision of good and adequate services to support teaching and research activities in the University is the mainstay of the Library's existence. Likewise, the availability of an adequate and pertinent collection, is the bread and butter issue for the library to sustain its main areas of business. No library could own everything their faculties and students needed, but instead settle for what it can afford. Affordability depends ultimately on the annual allocations for collection development. Librarians constantly lament the inadequacy of funds that often adversely blunt collection development efforts.

By and large, the University of Malaya Library has been quite adequately funded for its collection development. The graph in Figure 1 shows the annual allocations for books and journals for 1976-1997. It does not show many steep downward curves, but neither is there any obvious pattern of gradual increase as one would expect, to cover the shortfalls due to price increases, inflation or the declining Ringgit. From 1976 when the first statistics were reported in the annual reports till 1988, the allocation hovered around the one million Ringgit mark. There were lean years between 1989 and 1991 when the country went through a mild recession, and this invariably also affected UML's allocations, which fell below half a million Ringgit. More than anything else, libraries are very vulnerable to book and journal price increases. Standstill budgets and worse still, reduced allocations bring untold problems to librarians trying to sustain the same level of services with lesser financial resources. In addition, funding authorities are normally not appreciative of the dynamics of book and journal prices. Thus, allocations provided do not always seem to provide for the increase in student numbers, or new academic programmes.

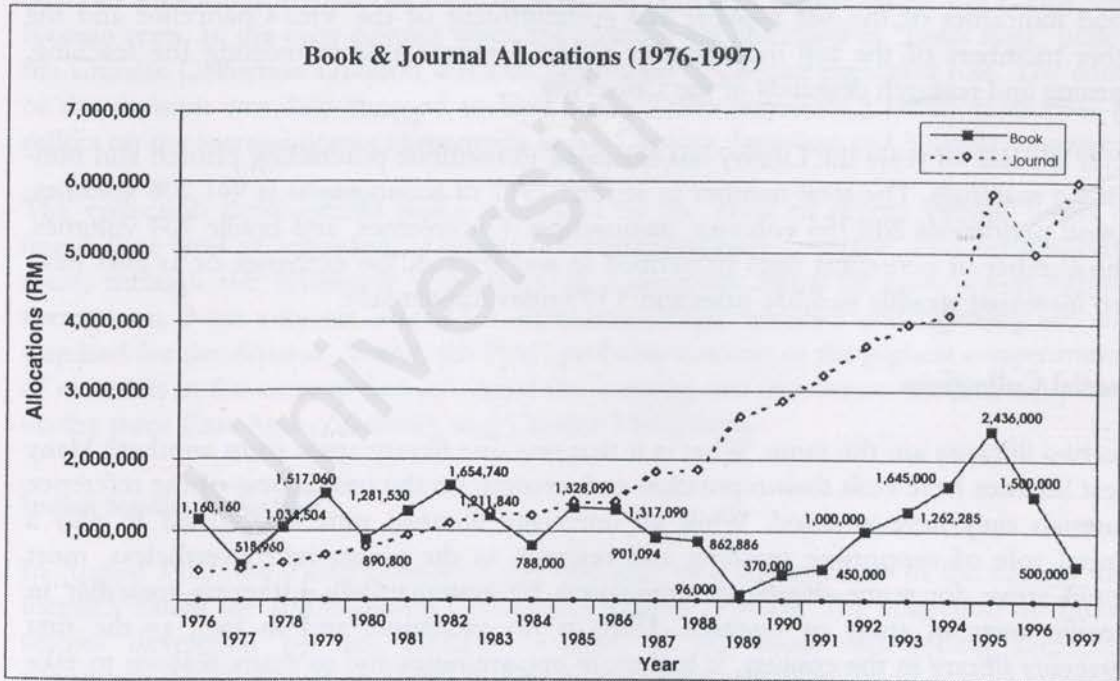


Figure 1: Book and Journal Allocations

Indeed, this lack of sensitivity to the ever upward-spiralling prices of books came to the fore in 1989. As a result of the nation-wide cost-cutting measures, the allocation for the purchase of books hit an all-time low of RM96,000.00, which prompted the Chief Librarian to place on record as "the biggest crisis" faced by the Library in 30 years of its existence. For the first time, there was no money to buy books, as all monies allocated had to be diverted to service the journal collection subscriptions. After the crisis years between 1989 to 1991, allocations improved to reflect an overall economic recovery in the nation. That the Library had been able to ride over the rough periods that resulted from lesser or stand-still budgets, meant a lot of cost-cutting and cost-containing measures and prudent use of given allocations. Inevitably, such actions always resulted in compromising on the acquisition of much needed materials. However, experience is a good teacher. Having gone through tight fiscal periods, librarians have learned to become experienced at husbanding the resources at their disposal. The financial situation improved tremendously after this. For instance, for the fiscal year 1995 the Library received RM9 million for collection development and for upgrading the outdated medical and general reference materials especially in the areas of science and technology. Last year and this year the budget stood at RM7.142 million respectively. These figures are good indicators of the full support and commitment of the Vice-Chancellor and the other members of the top management to the Library's role in meeting the teaching, learning and research demands of the University.

Over the last 40 years the Library has managed to continue purchasing printed and non-printed materials. The total number as at June 1997 of monographs is 941,208 volumes, bound periodicals 288,755 volumes, manuscripts 475 volumes, and braille 764 volumes. The number of periodical titles subscribed to and received on exchange or as gifts have also increased steadily to 5,331 titles and 3,179 titles respectively.

Special Collections

No two libraries are the same. What is it that sets one library apart from another? Many great libraries have built their reputation and strength on the uniqueness of the reference materials they have amassed. While all university libraries were established to play a central role of supporting teaching and research in the university, nevertheless, most would strive for some degree of uniqueness by systematically gathering materials in specific areas of study or research. UML is no exception, and in fact, as the first university library in the country, it had more opportunities and as many reasons to take the lead in developing purposeful collections pertinent to local academic study and research. Many of its special collections represent the greatest wealth or concentration of such materials within one institution in the country. A history on UML is not complete without an account on the development of some of the important collections.

The East Asian Collection

The collection began with a core of 7,446 Chinese books that were processed and transferred to UML from the University of Singapore in early 1962. These consisted of volumes duplicated in the collections of the Singapore library. The rationale for establishing the Chinese collection was to cater to the needs of the Chinese Studies Department, which required books on subjects pertaining to the Chinese language, culture, literature, philosophy, arts, sociology, politics and history. By April 1963, 8,000 from a total of 12,000 volumes already in the collection had been processed. This made it possible to provide Chinese Library facilities at the beginning of the new academic year (1963/64), to coincide with the beginning of taught courses in Chinese studies.

The collection increased steadily and by the end of the first decade, it had acquired a total of 39,863 volumes, and the figure increased to 54,851 volumes by the next decade. The collection comprised items acquired by the division, and those received as gifts and donations from various individuals and institutions. Special attention was paid to the acquisition of Chinese Malaysiana items. As the years went by, the collection began to have an increasing mixture of initially Japanese materials beginning in 1975, and later Korean texts. In the early eighties when the government launched its "Look East" policy, the Chinese Collection Division was well positioned to play an expanded role. The name of the division was duly changed to East Asian Collection (EAC) Division in 1982 to reflect on the increasing mix of materials in the Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages.

The collection development policy is guided by the need to reflect various levels of usage. One level of acquisition is aimed at a comprehensive coverage on specific subject areas, through the systematic acquisition of a complete range of materials in various formats on those subjects. Items for basic knowledge, research and teaching are also acquired for the division. Today, the EAC probably has one of the highest concentration of materials in the country that are useful for teaching and research at the university level on the three East Asian countries, and Chinese Malaysiana.

Indian Studies Collection

In August 1987, the Tamil collection was relocated in a separate area in the Library and formally called the Tamil Studies Collection Division (TSCD). The collection on Indian studies developed by this division, is one of the most outstanding collection encompassing all aspects of Tamil studies in the country. It also directs special attention towards the acquisitions of Tamil Malaysiana items. The collection is further enriched through donations of books from authors and other individuals. The collection has been growing steadily and has 16,018 volumes in 1996.

National Collection

October 1, 1976, remains a significant date in the library's history with the establishment of the National Collection Division. Its work involved the acquisition and organisation of materials pertaining to the national language, literature and culture. At its establishment, the division inherited two important collections, namely, the Malay collection and the Za'ba Collection. The latter is a personal collection of the Malay sage, the late Tan Sri Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad (better known as Za'ba), who had bequeathed the collection to the University of Malaya on 16 October 1965. It was subsequently transferred to the University Library in 1974, upon his death. The 3,175 titles in the collection comprise works in Romanised and Jawi scripts pertaining to the Malay language and culture, as well as materials in the Arabic language and Islamic studies.

The Division acquires a copy of every Malaysian imprint, with special attention given to the acquisition of semi-formal and mimeographed materials in view of their limited editions and difficulty of acquisitions if action is delayed. The division also takes pride in having some materials that date back to the last century or earlier. It presently owns 475 original manuscripts and 711 others in microfilm or microfiche formats. In its quest to build up rare Malay materials, the Division conducted acquisition trips to the east coast and the north. Many rare items were acquired. In 1977, a photocopy of a rare item on Malay musicology '*Penghiburan hati*', was acquired from the British Library. Many rare and precious books and manuscripts on Malaysiana studies were also acquired from antiquarian booksellers.

The Division has also been the beneficiary of a number of personal collections. In 1981, the Division was fortunate to receive a collection comprising 56 files containing letters and correspondences of the late Dato' Muhammad Yusuf bin Ahmad Linggi. Another outstanding collection comprising manuscripts, photographs, and 1,176 books belonging to the late Ibrahim Haji Yakob, was bequeathed to the Division on March 1981. A former vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya, Royal Professor Ungku Abdul Aziz b. Ungku Hamid, donated his personal collection consisting of 2,984 items to the Division. Many of the items in this collection pertain to higher education, economics and cooperatives in the country.

Starting from 1983, the Division was responsible for acquiring and processing papers presented at local seminars, conferences, and workshops. At the same time it started a newspaper cuttings collection on a wide range of subjects of national importance. On 17 November 1992, the University of Malaya Library successfully acquired for the National Collection Division, the collection of the late Father Manuel Joaquim Pintado, who was a Catholic priest at the St Peter's Church in Malacca. The majority of the 1,897 titles in this collection, are in Portuguese and comprise works pertaining to the history of the Portuguese exploits in Africa, India, Asia, the Far East, and particularly, Malacca.

In 1993, another important collection in the Library was placed under the responsibility of the Division. This was the Official Government Documents collection which was established in 1985 as a project with the joint cooperation of the Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN) and received support from the office of the Chief Secretary to the Government. The collection was established with the hope of gathering and recording all official publications of the government, which are often elusive due to the lack of good bibliographical control of such publications.

Over the years, the Division had truly gained in importance and excelled in its role as the depository and custodian of Malaysiana materials. Selected items and original manuscripts from the collection have been loaned out for display at various exhibitions within and without the Library. More importantly, materials from the collection have provided important reference sources in research by local and foreign academics and scholars. The Division and its collection deserve a more significant place in the UML setup in view of its importance. Thus, its name was changed to the Za'ba Memorial Library in 1993 to reflect its significance and status more accurately, as well as to honour its namesake, Za'ba, whose bequest has been one of the more significant collections to come into UML's possession.

Professional Staff Development

The worth of an academic library is often perceived through the collections it possesses as well as the nature of the services it renders and the professionalism shown in the provision of these services. The University of Malaya Library is fortunate today to have a team of very highly trained professional librarians, perhaps, unequaled by any library or information service institution in the country. The librarians have acquired expertise in various areas of library specialisation, ranging from media librarianship to library automation. Of the forty-nine professional librarians in 1996, a good number of them hold Masters degree in librarianship from either the United Kingdom or the United States. This enviable situation is a success story of a systematic and proactive policy that has guided the Library in the staff development programme.

In the early days, librarians were trained abroad, due to the lack of recognised education and training facilities within the country. Mr. Beda Lim, the first Malaysian to become Chief Librarian, received library training in Australia. Mr. Donald E. Wijasuriya, later to become the Director-General of the National Library of Malaysia and Mr. Edward Lim (later to become the Chief Librarian of Universiti Sains Malaysia and currently University Librarian at Monash University, Australia), were also awarded scholarships to pursue professional library education in the United Kingdom and Australia respectively.

The librarians, who followed subsequently, could be considered a home-grown breed who attained their professional status by working and studying on a part-time basis to

pass the professional examinations conducted by the Library Association, United Kingdom. Successful candidates in these examinations were awarded the Associate of the Library Association (ALA) which conferred chartered librarian status. The University of Malaya accepted this qualification as one of the requirements for confirmation to the post of Library Assistant (Qualified). This format of training and acquisition of the professional qualification was the norm, and all graduates who joined the library service were fully aware of this 'sword of Damocles' hanging over their heads. However, any fear or doubts were unnecessary, as most of the librarians had the benefit of a good collection of books and sound training in the library itself, and many excelled in the examinations.

By 1975, the last of the ALA examination was conducted in the country, and this closed the only avenue for the graduates who joined the Library service to acquire professional library qualification locally. This prompted the Library to make a case to the University authorities for training slots to be allocated under the University Staff Training Scheme to allow its staff to obtain their professional qualification abroad. The first encouraging news came in 1976 when a librarian was awarded a scholarship from the Public Services Commission (PSC), offered through the university, to study librarianship at University College, London. This opened the way for other staff members of the Library to follow suit in the years ahead.

In 1977, three staff members were sent to the United Kingdom to pursue their first professional library qualification under similar circumstances. Two more librarians were sent the following year. Up to this point, almost all the graduate staff had already obtained their professional qualification except for the few who had joined recently.

A case was then made for qualified librarians to be sent for professional training at the postgraduate level. The university authority acquiesced to this and in 1979, two qualified librarians went to University College, London to pursue their Masters in Librarianship, under scholarships awarded by the PSC. The PSC scholarships mentioned were only awarded to Malay staff under the Bumiputra Academic Staff Training Scheme (SLAB) of the University. In an effort to ensure that all staff, including non-Malays, had equal opportunities for professional training, the Library requested the University to provide training slots under the University Study Leave Scheme. This was approved, and in 1980, one non-bumiputra staff member proceeded to pursue the Master of Library Science programme in the United States. In addition to scholarships awarded by the PSC or the University itself, staff development had benefited from other scholarship awards from outside the University. Three staff members were awarded the British Council scholarships to do postgraduate library studies in the United Kingdom in 1973, 1979 and 1981 respectively.

Many other staff members continued to be trained at the postgraduate level from scholarship awards under the University Study Leave Scheme, as the University had

allocated two training slots each year for such purpose. This systematic training programme has made the UML system to have possibly the highest concentration of librarians with postgraduate degrees in library science.

While the University of Malaya Library had benefited greatly from its professional staff development programmes, it had also made profound contributions to library development in the country. In the first two decades of its establishment, its professional staff played active roles in the Malaysian Library Association, either holding important posts within the association, or contributing their efforts towards the Association's official journal. The ensuing years saw the establishment of the National Library and the other universities in the country. Some of the cream of the University of Malaya Library's professionals left to take up posts in these new institutions. Mrs. Hedwig Anuar, a prominent staff member and President of Federation of Malaya Library Association in 1961, moved on to become the Director of the National Library of Singapore. Mr. Edward Lim, a pioneer library staff, and a past editor of the PPM journal, took up appointment as Chief Librarian of Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, in 1969. Mr. Donald E. K. Wijasuriya was seconded to the National Library in March 1975 and later became its Director-General. The late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin took up appointment as a librarian in the Arkib Negara Malaysia (National Archives of Malaysia) in 1968, and later became the Chief Librarian of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

The University of Malaya Library is a popular centre for library training. Staff from many libraries, and library science students from the local library school at the Mara Institute of Technology, have benefited from the many training stints in it. The Library staff had also contributed to the Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) programme at the University itself. Many served as part-time lecturers in the programme in its initial stage. Subsequently, two of its senior staff members left to take up permanent appointment as lecturers, and helped to restructure the curriculum.

The University of Malaya Library has appreciated the need for a team of very professional and highly trained staff within its organization. It is now reaping the reward for its great foresight. With the impending corporatisation of the University, the Library is well positioned to respond positively to new challenges and make cogent contributions to fulfilling the University's corporate mission. The Library has reorganised its internal structure, and is refocusing its staff development effort with the view of building professional expertise in various areas, to reposition and prepare itself for its new role.

Library Automation Strategy

The emergence of the computer has profound effects on libraries and its services. As a service sector used to handling and disseminating vast amount of information, libraries have been one of the first to recognise the great potentials of computers to facilitate their

tasks. Manual work processes and information provision in libraries have given way to new computer-based systems that perform tasks more effectively and rapidly.

In keeping up with the changes, the UML system is now highly computerized with the implementation of an automated system for its traditional work processes and the use of various electronic information products in its services. The present state of automation in the library system is a culmination of years of strategic planning that started as an initiative in the early 1970s. Back then, the introduction of the Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) format by the US Library of Congress in the early 1960s, stirred librarians' interest on the benefits of computerisation. Inspired by the need to automate the library system, the Library was able to convince its Library Committee to allocate RM7,000 to have a system analyst from the Computer Centre to undertake a feasibility study for Library automation (Khoo, 1991). The study was not very conclusive apart from suggesting that a full time system analyst be placed in the Library to implement plans for automation. In 1974, the Library submitted a request for RM300,000 from the Third Malaysia Plan (1976-1980), for the purpose of automating the work processes in the Circulation Division. This bid was unsuccessful and the project had to be temporarily shelved.

In the years that followed, a landmark development in 1977 was UML's participation in a pilot project utilising MARC tapes for cooperative cataloguing in Malaysia, under the MALMARC (Malaysian MARC) project. The project was funded by an UNESCO grant, and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang, was designated as the coordinating centre. The libraries of Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and the National Library, used the computing facilities of USM to create their own machine-readable cataloguing records. Following the successful pilot trial, MALMARC became operational in 1979. Participating institutions were grouped into a consortium and each paid an annual subscription to cover the cost of processing records as well as purchasing the MARC tapes. UM was unable to continue its association with the project due to shortage of funds. It only rejoined the consortium in 1981, to start on a most beneficial and synergistic arrangement that lasted until 1990, when the consortium ceased.

The first unsuccessful attempt to obtain an allocation for computerisation under the Third Malaysia Plan, did not deter the University of Malaya Library from pursuing its plan to computerise its library system. Under the Fourth Malaysia Plan (1981-1985), a sum of RM740,000 was sought to implement an on-line library system in a network environment, linking the Main Library and three branch libraries - Medical, Law and the Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research Studies, formerly known as the Institute of Advanced Studies. Pending the approval of its request, the library proceeded to close its card catalogue in January 1982, one year after it rejoined the MALMARC consortium. The closure of the card catalogue could not be a more cogent expression of the Library's

serious pursuit of its automation objectives. It also took other initiatives in the pursuit of its goal. A Sub-committee on Computer Services in the Library was established in 1982 to help formulate and streamline both long-term and short-term goals for library automation. The Sub-committee included a number of highly influential faculty members from the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and the Computer Centre, who between them possess expertise in computer hardware, software and communications.

For all its computerisation plans and its determination, the University of Malaya Library still had nothing to show. There was not a single piece of computer equipment until the end of 1985. The year 1984 perhaps ushered in the first piece of good news to realise the Library's automation dream. A sum of RM300,000 was approved under the Fourth Malaysia Plan for the Library to carry out its computerisation project. The Library seized on this good opportunity, and proceeded with a tender exercise in early 1985 for the acquisition of an automated library system. The Sub-committee on Computer Services evaluated the tender proposals received and submitted a report on the evaluation to the University's Tender Board in mid 1985. It became patently clear that the Library's allocation was not anywhere near the lowest bid that fulfilled its requirements. Its computerisation plans had to be temporarily shelved. This was a real setback, and left the Library with no choice but to re-assess its strategy on library automation. More attention was then paid to promote computer literacy among its staff to prepare them for a more comprehensive implementation of library automation. Microcomputers were purchased for staff to perform word processing and database management activities.



Accessing the databases

The history of UML's automation would be written differently if not for a fortuitous turn of event in 1988. The realisation of modern computerisation for the Library rested on one historic meeting between Y.B. Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, then Minister of Education, and the Heads of all local institutions of higher learning. The Chief Librarians of these institutions were also invited to attend (Khoo, 1991). In an effort to coordinate the use of libraries in local institutions of higher learning, the Ministry of Education believed in the need for wider computer applications in all the academic libraries, including networking with each other. No doubt the plight of the University of Malaya Library as "the most backward, in terms of computerisation, being the only academic library to have had many plans, but no machines worth talking about" (Khoo, 1991), came to the attention of the Minister. To the Library's good fortune, the Minister made an immediate grant of RM2.4 million for its computerisation plans. On 17 January 1989, after a series of correspondence and follow-up procedures, the Ministry of Education gave formal approval of the money to the University of Malaya Library.

The Library had every reason to be grateful as the sum secured was based on a more comprehensive and ambitious computerisation plan for the purchase of an integrated library system that would link the Main Library with all its branch libraries. On 16 February 1989, a new tender was advertised for the supply of an automated, integrated library system on a turnkey basis. The Sub-committee on Computer Services set about doing the evaluations and submitted a final report containing its recommendations to the University authorities in August 1989. The tender was eventually awarded to Computer Base Sdn. Bhd. in November 1989. The company had proposed to supply the ATLAS library software package running on the Digital VAX 6410 minicomputer system. The library network to be established would link up 100 terminals distributed throughout its system. However, actual supply and implementation was delayed for almost a year as a result of protracted negotiations with the vendor to exact the best terms. When the Sales and Purchase Agreement was finally signed on 26 December 1990, it marked the culmination of a dream for everyone involved in the computerisation of the Library. It had been a plan that came so agonisingly close to becoming a reality in 1985, but which through a string of events was only realised five years later. Words could not portray the true feelings of everyone involved at that momentous moment of the Library's history. Perhaps, one could share in the sentiments from a quote by Mrs. Khoo Siew Mun, the Chief Librarian then, "No documentation can capture the vast amount of work that has gone into the University of Malaya Library's computerisation project, or reflect the agony and stress, the frustration and disappointment throughout the project, or the joy and jubilation and sweet relief at the signing of the Final Agreement."

Implementation of the library system began earnestly in January 1991 and by April it was up and running. The availability of almost 100,000 records in machine-readable MARC-compatible format, which the library had built up over the last 10 years, had greatly

facilitated the work of installing the system and making it operational. By September 1991, cabling and other remnants of work had been completed and all network links between the Main Library and its branch libraries were activated. With this link-up, the University of Malaya Library network became the most extensive network to link up buildings in all four corners of the campus. The UML system was also linked to the Computer Centre where it maintained a router for communication to other networks outside the campus. In the absence of a campus-wide network then, the Library extended the use of its terminals in its system to academic staff to enable them to send and receive electronic mail.

Meanwhile, training and other aspects of the system implementation progressed at a fast pace. The Circulation System was targeted to be fully on-line by the 1992/93 session. Many preliminary tasks had to be resolved to allow the Circulation System to be on-line. One of these tasks involved the conversion of the patron records. This was completed in February 1992. This was followed by the retrospective conversion of the bibliographic records from March to May 1992. It was an intensive exercise that roped in all staff who could type on the keyboard. By the end of the exercise, the Library had around 212,800 records in the database. This allowed circulation transactions of the Library to proceed.

Money seemed to come in easier once computerisation got off the ground. The Library requested for RM1.1 million under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) for the upgrading of its computer system, together with additional disk storage and an additional 100 terminals. The sum was approved and the computer system was upgraded from a VAX6410 to VAX6610 in November 1994. Disk storage was increased by 4.0 Gigabytes to bring it to a total of 6.5 Gigabytes, and 60 additional VT420 terminals as well as 12 Personal Computers were added. A CD-ROM network was installed using the Meridian system. Two CD-ROM drive chassis of 14 drives each, allowed 28 CD-ROM disks comprising important databases to be made accessible on-line to all branch libraries in the network.

By 1995 the Internet was making an impact all over the world. Through its OPAC system, the Library had made it possible for users to access other remote libraries and databases within and without the country. This was enhanced at the end of 1996 when the Library installed a line of higher bandwidth to connect it to the external networks. It created an Internet Corner and made available microcomputers for users to surf the Internet on the World Wide Web. A Web server was also purchased, thus enabling the Library to build its own Web home page to make information on the Library available through the Internet. Concurrently, the long awaited high speed campus-wide network became available. Through it, the library system is now accessible from desktop computers located in every office, academic room and student residential colleges, realising the Library's aim of having its system accessible by the whole campus community.

Indeed the Library system is truly into the Information Age. While it would seem that the Library went through much anguish in its endeavour to automate, events of the early 1990s have ushered in hopes for greater optimism for its role in the Information Age. Looking back in retrospect, the Library can be said to have held the rein of its own destiny *vis-à-vis* its computerisation. It has steered itself well and can look forward to its future with greater optimism. Future developments will no doubt see the Library repositioning itself to play a more active and effective role through its computerisation initiatives in the new corporate institution. Its current state of computerisation has definitely made it well equipped to play a more prominent role in the University's future. Its basic purposes have not been subsumed or supplanted by technology, rather it will harness whatever modern technology has to offer to carry out its mission more effectively.

Epilogue

Much has been done and much has been achieved in the past four decades of the University of Malaya Library's existence. While it did not really have a difficult past, neither had things always been smooth sailing. Like any great library, the University of Malaya Library has had to fight many pitch battles for funds, staff and most critically, space. To say that space or the lack of it has been the Library's main preoccupation and the most problematic in the last four decades, is not an overdone verbal exaggeration. It has been a constant problem to the Library administration since its inception. Each of the four Chief Librarians over the last four decades, had not been spared the 'fight' for more space. The current Chief Librarian, Dr. Zaiton Osman, literally had the planning for the latest extension thrust in her lap the moment she was appointed. All things said and done, indeed, the problem of space, which has been a concern to the various library administrations from the beginning, may well again surface in the near future.

The solutions that came along were piecemeal, to say the least, and were more exigent measures rather than the result of adhering to any blueprint. The latest extension to the building undoubtedly has been the most cosmetic to give it a more dignified appearance. However, it cannot hide the 'scars' from all previous works done to it. It is hard to find a parallel, where an original structure has been so architecturally dismembered to the point where the original building is left literally unrecognisable.

While the University of Malaya Library celebrates its new extension and sees it as a welcome reprieve, the final chapter to the 'extension' story is yet to be written. The next decade which will culminate in its golden anniversary at the turn of the new millennium would perhaps see tremendous changes in the Library as it braces itself to face challenges and demands of the Information Age. Hopefully, it will be spared from having to contend for space again. The corporatisation of the University is going to see higher increase in student population, and it will have ramifications on the Library and its

services. It is certain that the Library must brace itself yet again to fight some old familiar battles. After all, it has become a tradition passed on from one generation of Chief Librarian to the next, to go through this baptism of fire.

As the Library moves into the new millennium, great changes are bound to take place. The beginning of its fifth decade will see the Library and its staff being part of, and operating to fulfill the mission of a new corporate institution. It will also have to face up and weather through the thick of the Information Age, where new demands and services have to be met. How well it can respond to the challenges would inescapably determine and set the direction for the future.

Infrastructure wise, it may not have all its expectations fulfilled, but on the other hand, it is not so hopelessly placed that it cannot see its hopes and dreams attained. Having had good, able leadership in the past to make it what it is today, it can relive the day when it was the first university library in the country, it will now be the first university library for a new corporate university environment. *Quo vadis?*

Does it need another extension to give it a new image? The answer is certainly not. It has been dismembered externally too many times, that another cosmetic job cannot but do more harm than good. Rather its greatness must sprout from within. The Library has many unique and useful collections and other information resources. Also, at its service is a team of very highly trained and dedicated staff. Combined with the judicious use of whatever resources it has, it will no doubt achieve its noble mission. In the new age where it will be thrust into, it is not enough merely to have a mission. It needs a vision. A vision to pen a *golden* chapter for its next decade.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Academic Session	Major Events
1957/58	<p>Opening of university site at Pantai Valley; projects on road works and services, residential colleges, Arts building and the Library.</p> <p>Beda Lim supervised the establishment of a library for the Kuala Lumpur Division of the University of Malaya.</p> <p>Ordering and processing of books for the Kuala Lumpur Division handled by the Singapore Division.</p>
1958/59	Library building officiated on 15.12.1959.
1959/60	<p>W. J. Plumbe took up appointment as Librarian for the Kuala Lumpur Division Library in October 1959.</p> <p>Ordering and cataloguing of new books ceased to be done in the Singapore Division.</p>
1960/61	The transfer of books from the Singapore Division was completed on 30.4.1960.
1961/62	<p>The Library produced its first Accession List in May 1962.</p> <p>Drawings to the Library extension approved on 24.5.1961, and construction started in May 1962.</p>
1962/63	<p>W.J. Plumbe resigned as Librarian on 1.8.1962, and Beda Lim was appointed as Acting Librarian on 10.12.1962.</p> <p>A special Joint Council and Senate Sub-committee recommended changing from the Bliss system to the Library of Congress system of classification.</p> <p>New extension to the building was occupied in May 1963.</p> <p>On 10.1.1963, the Library Committee agreed to recommend a separate medical library for the Faculty of Medicine.</p>
1963/64	Reclassification of books from the Bliss system to the Library of Congress system started on 27.1.1964 and was completed on 16.5.1964; a total of 61,572 volumes were reclassified.
1964/65	<p>Joint Committee of Council and Senate agreed to recommend RM1.0 million for an extension to the Library building.</p> <p>The Medical Library moved to a temporary premise in the Faculty of Medicine in April 1964.</p> <p>Beda Lim was appointed as Chief Librarian on 30.4.1965</p>

Academic Session	Major Events
1965/66	<p>The University authorities approved RM1.25 million for the third phase of the Library building.</p> <p>The Medical Library moved to its permanent location.</p>
1966/67	<p>Building plans for the third phase of the Library building approved.</p>
1969/70	<p>The third phase of the Library building was occupied on 3.9.1969.</p>
1971/72	<p>A proposal was submitted for the construction of the fourth phase to the Library building.</p>
1972/73	<p>The fourth phase of the Library building was approved; it would be part of the proposed new complex, that includes the Centre for Post-Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Law, and the Fine Arts Gallery.</p>
1973/74	<p>The completion of a new building, containing an all-night unsupervised reading room, known as "Siswarama", helped to alleviate seating problems in the Library.</p>
1974/75	<p>Work on the fourth phase of the Library extension started in August 1974.</p> <p>The Readers' Services Division split to become the Circulation Division and the Reference Division, respectively.</p> <p>A Law librarian, Shaikha Zakaria, was appointed.</p> <p>Khoo Siew Mun joined the Library as the Deputy Chief Librarian on 25.11.1975.</p>
1975/76	<p>A cataloguing blitz from 16.2.1976 to 31.5.1976, resulted in the clearance of a cataloguing backlog of 26,664 volumes.</p> <p>The Medical Library adopted the National Library of Medicine (NLM) classification scheme in January 1976.</p>
1976/77	<p>The Law Library and the Red-spot Collection moved into the fourth phase of the Library extension.</p> <p>The National Collection Division (Bahagian Koleksi Kebangsaan) was established on 1.10.1976; it inherited the existing Malay Collection and the Za'ba Collection.</p>
1977/78	<p>The Law Library and the Red-spot Collection became operational at the new premise on 6.6.1977.</p>

Academic Session	Major Events
1979/80	<p>Beda Lim retired from the Library on 25.5.1980, and Khoo Siew Mun was appointed as Acting Librarian from 26.5.1980.</p> <p>The Library participated in the MALMARC cost study with the National Library and other local university libraries, between 1.1.1979 and 31.7.1979.</p>
1980/81	<p>The Library had its first ever stocktaking from February to May 1981; a total of 711,000 books were counted.</p> <p>The Library joined the MALMARC consortium on 1.1.1981 and began building machine-readable bibliographic records of its collections.</p>
1981/82	<p>The card catalogue was closed with effect from 1.1.1982.</p> <p>The first issue of the Library newsletter, <i>Kekal Abadi</i>, was published in March 1982.</p>
1982/83	<p>The Library felt the effect of the big budget cut of 1982.</p> <p>The Chinese Collection Division changed its name to the East Asian Collection.</p>
1983/84	<p>The Sub-committee on Computer Services in the Library was formed.</p> <p>Khoo Siew Mun was appointed Chief Librarian on 12.10.1984.</p> <p>Shaikha Zakaria was appointed Deputy Chief Librarian on 13.11.1984.</p>
1984/85	<p>A sum of RM300,000.00 was approved under the Fourth Malaysia Plan (1981-1985) for the computerisation of the Library.</p> <p>The Institute for Postgraduate Studies and Research Library and the Engineering Faculty Library were absorbed into the Library system.</p> <p>Baradas Gopal was appointed Deputy Chief Librarian on 10.5.1985.</p>
1985/86	<p>On 2.1.1986, the Library registered its one-millionth accession; new acquisitions were bar-coded with numbers beginning from 1000001 onwards.</p> <p>An IBM PC/AT became the first piece of modern computing hardware to be purchased by the Library.</p> <p>The Library held a tender exercise for the purchase of an integrated library system, but the tender lapsed due to the lack of funds.</p>
1986/87	<p>The Library consolidated its computerisation programme with the acquisition of more microcomputer hardware and peripherals.</p> <p>The Language Centre Library merged with the UML system in October 1986.</p>

Academic Session	Major Events
1987/88	The Library was closely associated with the launching of the Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) course in the University in September 1987, and 7 of its staff members served as part-time lecturers.
1988/89	<p>The Library did not have sufficient allocation to purchase books in this academic session, the first time it was faced with such a crisis in 30 years.</p> <p>The Automation Unit was formed on 10.10.1988.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education approved RM2.4 million for the computerisation of the Library.</p> <p>Tender for the supply of an integrated library system was advertised on 20.2.1989.</p> <p>Soong Mun Wai was appointed Acting Deputy Chief Librarian on 22.3.1989 on the demise of Baradas Gopal on 16.3.1989.</p>
1989/90	<p>The Main Library bar-coded its whole collection during the University's long vacation.</p> <p>The Tenders Evaluation Committee for the procurement of the integrated library system submitted its report to the University's Tenders Board in October 1989.</p>
1990/91	<p>The air-conditioning system in the Library was replaced for the first time in 30 years.</p> <p>Soong Mun Wai was appointed Deputy Chief Librarian in 1990.</p> <p>The Sales and Purchase Agreement for the supply and installation of the ATLAS computerised library system in the Library was signed on 26.12.1990.</p>
1991/92	<p>Site preparation for the installation of the computerised library system was carried out from January-February 1991. The computer system was started on 1.3.91, and 98,120 machine-readable records were loaded by mid-March 1991.</p> <p>Soong Mun Wai, Deputy Chief Librarian, retired from service on 11.7.1991.</p> <p>Zaiton Osman was appointed as Acting Deputy Chief Librarian on 11.7.1991 and became the Deputy Chief Librarian on 8.11.1991.</p> <p>Loan transaction came on-line on 1.4.1992 in conjunction with the commencement of the new academic session.</p> <p>The Library requested for allocations under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) for a new Library building as well as for upgrading the computer system.</p>

Academic Session	Major Events
1992/93	<p>Khoo Siew Mun, the Chief Librarian, retired from service on 5.2.1993.</p> <p>Shaikha Zakaria was appointed as Acting Chief Librarian on 10.1.1993 - 13.3.1993.</p> <p>Zaiton Osman was appointed as Acting Chief Librarian on 18.3.1993 and subsequently as Chief Librarian on 10.9.1993.</p> <p>Shaikha Zakaria took optional retirement on 30.11.1993.</p>
1993/94	<p>The Faculty of Education Library merged with the UML system on 27.9.1993.</p>
1994/95	<p>The computer system was upgraded from a VAX6410 to VAX6610 in November 1994. A CD-ROM network was installed, allowing on-line access to selected electronic databases.</p> <p>Work started on the new wing (fifth phase) to the Main Library building in April 1995.</p> <p>The Library of the Centre for Foundation Studies in Science merged with the UML system in September 1994.</p>
1995/96	<p>The Faculty of Economics and Administration Library became part of the UML system on 12.1.1996.</p>
1996/97	<p>The fifth phase or New Wing of the Main Library building was completed in April 1997.</p>
1997/98	<p>The new entrance via the New Wing was opened to the public on 18.5.1997.</p> <p>The Computer Laboratory was commissioned on 14.7.1997.</p> <p>The New Wing was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Haji Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad on 3.11.1997.</p>

LIBRARY ARTIFACTS OF 1959-1962 *

W.J. Plumbe

Librarian (1959 – 1962)



Introduction

In 1987, a former Librarian of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur wrote:

Blessed with hindsight, many of our early struggles in the 1950s and 1960s now seem ridiculous and unbelievable.

To Donald Wijasuriya who was appointed a graduate library assistant in the Library of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur in September 1959 and to his colleagues in the three years immediately following, that may seem an exaggeration. Universities have proliferated in Malaysia and library development has been so dramatic that the intrigue and manoeuvring and lost opportunities of those early years no longer matter. Confidential correspondence has now been shredded or become archival debris and reports of that time have joined the same oblivion as artifacts of a primitive community.

Yet for the University Library of Kuala Lumpur there were such opportunities! Within two years they were working in one library:

- ◆ Hedwig Anuar
- ◆ Donald Wijasuriya
- ◆ Edward Lim Huck Tee
- ◆ Visvalingam Nadasabapathy
- ◆ Abdul Aziz bin Sheik Mydin

* First appeared in *The information challenge : a festschrift in honour of Dr Donald Wijasuriya*. Ed. by Ch'ng Kim See. Kuala Lumpur.: Knowledge Publishers, 1995.

of whom two became directors of national library systems, two others became university librarians of Australian universities and one became the first Librarian of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. It was an extraordinary congregation of intellect and professional talent, possibly unmatched before or since.

Several other members of senior (and junior) staff were outstanding but they stayed 'put' – for various reasons – laying the foundations of the University of Malaya Library as it has emerged today.

Malayanisation Process

... for several years after it was set up in Kuala Lumpur, originally as 'The University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur' and from 1 January 1962 as 'The University of Malaya', the Council of the University consisted of five academic and administrative staff of the University and 19 members appointed by the Chancellor, the Court, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Conference of Rulers, the Council of Ministers of Singapore, the Governors of North Borneo and Sarawak and the Sultan of Brunei, and the Guild of Graduates. It was common knowledge that the four persons elected by the Guild of Graduates had great influence in Council, in the Finance Committee, in the Staff Committee and, through various Selection Boards, on the filling of posts in the staff establishment of Departments and indeed on the appointment of individuals. One heard it said: *'They control the whole University!'* That was not true but, like a few expatriate staff of the University, they were keen that local staff should be appointed and promoted as rapidly as possible.

... In 1960-1962 there were never more than three professionally qualified staff (including the Librarian) available to cope with running the library, training junior staff and handling an average yearly intake of 25,845 volumes in 40 languages and six scripts.

The practice of blocking recruitment from overseas overlooked the fact that there were no qualified Malayan citizens available for appointment to the vacant posts. The need to train and educate locally young graduates and non-graduates who could take posts of responsibility in the not distant future was therefore acute and clearly something had to be done.

It may be asked why existing graduate library assistants were not sent overseas, as at present, to gain professional qualifications. The answer is the awards were secured for two of them (Edward Lim Huck Tee and Donald Wijasuriya) and they left for Australia and England respectively in March 1961 and August 1961. Another award was obtained in the first half of 1962 for a third graduate to go overseas but he could not be released at the time owing to shortage of senior staff – and the University never accepted the award that would have allowed him to go after 1962 when the staffing situation eased.

Need for School of Librarianship

What happened in Kuala Lumpur in 1960 was that a forecast was made of the probable need for professional librarians in Malaya as a whole; and there was a thorough discussion of the need to establish School of Librarianship.

At that time there were in Kuala Lumpur 17 research libraries, a Chinese public library linked to a system of 230 rural libraries, and old established subscription library with 130,000 volumes in English, libraries operated by the British Council and the United States Information Service, libraries at the Technical College, the College of Agriculture, the Malayan Teachers' College, the Federation Military College, the Language Institute, the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and several very large school libraries; and a National Library had been promised by Government for the near future. It was believed that 50 librarians would be needed in Malaya by the end of 1965.

If a local Library School could be established, students at it would be able to obtain experience and contacts not only in the University library but also in other libraries in Kuala Lumpur that were more numerous and varied than anywhere else in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur was the natural capital of the (politically) new Malaysia; it was expected that the main body of students would be drawn from the Federation of Malaya, although it was believed that students might also come from elsewhere. (That the Library School should be in Kuala Lumpur was a view not shared and strongly opposed by the then University Librarian in Singapore and the temporary director of Singapore National Library, both of whom preferred the School to be in Singapore).

Accommodation was one aspect of establishing a library school that had to be settled. In Kuala Lumpur accommodation was not a difficulty. The second phase of the library building of the University of Malaya, which it was taken for granted would be the headquarters of the school, had already been planned and it was to have space for three million volumes and 480-seated readers; in addition the earlier library which would then form an annex could hold more than 50,000 volumes and seat 120 readers. After the second phase there was to be a third phase. The accommodation available for a school of librarianship in phase two consisted of a self-contained room, 84 feet long by 24 feet wide, on the ground floor, having its own entrance and cloak-room. In addition, one other large area and two or three studies, each of 100 square feet, could probably have been made available.

Proposal for School of Librarianship

In view of the urgent need for professionally qualified staff, it was therefore formally proposed to the University that it should establish a School of Librarianship for three years which would produce 50 qualified librarians for Malaya as a whole.

The proposals (in summary) were that:

- ◆ A School of Librarianship should be accommodated in the new building.
- ◆ It would be established without cost to the University, the necessary funds for establishment, maintenance and staff salaries being provided from sources outside the University.
- ◆ The School would offer two principal full-time courses: one for graduates, the other for non-graduates possessing normal university entrance qualifications.
- ◆ The course for graduates would be of two years duration and the course for non-graduates of three years duration.
- ◆ The course for graduates would lead to an award of a Diploma with Honours, and the course for non-graduates to the award of a Diploma. The standard of these awards would be that of the Fellowship and Associateship, respectively, of the United Kingdom Library Association.
- ◆ If possible other courses of much shorter duration and lower standard would be provided for the staff of small public libraries and teacher-librarians who might not have the minimum entrance qualifications for admission to the professional courses.
- ◆ The full-time staff of the School would consist of a least three full-time lecturers, one of whom would act as Director of the School; and other qualified librarians in Malaya and Singapore would be invited to lecture on special topics.
- ◆ The School would exist, initially, for three years in which time it would attempt to turn out 50 qualified librarians.

Several comments may be made about the proposals contained in this late neolithic piece of terra-cotta.

At the time the proposals were made, the University of Malaya was still not fully established – in particular, it had to face the huge cost of creating a Faculty of Medicine (which would have its own library); and it was not known to what extent the Government of the Federation of Malaya would wish to employ professional librarians in future. It was thought, therefore, that although a school of librarianship was badly needed, the funds for its creation ought to be sought outside the University. It was known that support would be forthcoming from at least one local foundation, at least one friendly government overseas, and possibly from UNESCO and the United Kingdom Library Association.

As for duration of the courses, it was thought that local candidates would be of high calibre and that graduates with previous library experience could be taken up to FLA level in two years, and that non-graduates – again, it was envisaged they would possess library experience before entering the School – could be taken to ALA level in three years.

The United Kingdom Library Association was doubtful that this standard could be reached but here in Malaya it was considered that a more concentrated effort could be made in a small school, with lecturers whom it was hoped would be exceptionally well qualified, than could be achieved in a larger school overseas where several disadvantages existed. It was hoped that one lecturer could be recruited from the United Kingdom, one from the United States and one from an Asian country.

That the School should exist for only three years was proposed for three reasons:-

- ◆ It was not known whether financial support would be available after the end of three years.
- ◆ It was thought that the University might not be willing to make space available in the Library on a permanent basis, although it would probably be able to make it available for much longer than three years.
- ◆ It was not known how libraries would develop in Malaya and how many professional librarians beyond the 50 mark could be absorbed into suitable posts.

As is widely known, the School of Librarianship proposed in 1960 was never established.

The project was kept 'alive' until mid-1962 but in the University committees through which it had to pass it met with endless indecision procrastination and obstruction (some of it emanating from Singapore). After 1962 the proposals remained 'on the table' for three years but at the end of 1965 a private letter brought news that they were *finally torpedoed ... and sunk without trace*. Thus the University of Malaya discarded a real opportunity to assist in the development of Malaysia – and forfeited its position as a pioneer in the field of library education in Southeast Asia. (It also had to send most of its present 38 senior staff to Britain, U.S.A. and Australia to obtain professional qualifications).

In connection with library education another project also failed – at least in part.

The Proposed Library School and Secondment of Lecturer

At the request of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, the United Kingdom Library Association (which had received a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation) made available the services of a lecturer in librarianship for a period of *two* years. The purpose of the secondment was to help the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur – as the ‘key’ library in Malaya at that time – to overcome its staffing problems. The terms of reference were:

- ◆ The officer concerned was to be designated ‘Lecturer in Librarianship’;
- ◆ The Lecturer would be on the staff of the Library Association and he would be financed by the Library Association. He would be seconded to the University for a period of two years;
- ◆ The Lecturer would accept the same obligations towards the University as a Visiting Lecturer except that in matters of tuition he would be responsible to the Library Association of the United Kingdom;
- ◆ The Lecturer would ensure that any courses given by him would not interfere in any way with the work of the University Library;
- ◆ The University, through its Library Committee and Librarian, would try to facilitate the work of the Lecturer.
- ◆ The Library Association would hold itself responsible for the course but the Lecturer would be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor or the Librarian or the Library Committee (whichever the University might prefer) for matters concerned with accommodation and use of the University Library; and the Lecturer would seek the advice of the University Librarian and other librarians in Kuala Lumpur before preparing a time-table for the courses;
- ◆ The University, for a period of two years, would lend accommodation in the University Library building, including an office for the use of the Lecturer, where teaching and study could be carried out, and it would agree to bear the cost of lighting and cleaning these premises;
- ◆ The University library would be regarded by the Library Association as a ‘laboratory’ library. It would continue to be an approved library for examination purposes; and, to ensure maintenance of the necessary standards, it was assumed that it would have in charge of it a senior Librarian possessing full professional qualifications (i.e., FLA or a qualification which the Library Association could regard as equivalent);

- ◆ The Lecturer, and students accepted for Librarianship studies, would be accorded the same borrowing and research facilities as academic members of the University and University students, respectively;
- ◆ The Lecturer would accept as Librarianship students staff of the University library and also students from outside the University. Students taking academic courses at the University would not normally be eligible for tuition under this scheme, but otherwise the Lecturer would accept students at his discretion;
- ◆ Both graduates and non-graduates would be eligible to participate in courses;
- ◆ Students would be expected to sit for the professional examinations of the Library Association, but this requirement could be waived by the Lecturer if local needs should warrant it; and
- ◆ An assurance from the University that staff of the University Library would be encouraged, and enabled wherever possible, to attend courses in Librarianship, would be welcomed.

The Library Association sent out to Malaysia an eminent City Librarian who had recently lost his job on account of disagreements with his library committee.

He had no experience of university library work or of teaching at university level but he became well-liked and popular, especially with junior staff, and he gave classes for both graduates and non-graduates that helped them to prepare for examinations of the United Kingdom Library Association.

Library Work Study

It was hoped that his work would lead to establishment of the school of librarianship that had already been proposed; but his teaching was not at a level which had much interest for graduates and his hopes concerning a school of librarianship were extinguished by indifference and opposition in Kuala Lumpur and disapproval in Singapore. He must have had a difficult and thoroughly frustrating time in Malaysia. It is customary in universities that one Department does not concern itself in an ill-mannered way with the administration of any other Department. Yet in 1961 a certain Department in the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur was allowed to conduct a so-called 'Library Work Study' in order to determine whether the management of the Library was satisfactory or not. The investigation was carried out mainly by a group of young undergraduates who popped in and out of library work-rooms and offices for several days, naively recording the activities of the library staff as 'writing', 'talking', 'typing' and 'doing nothing'. This comedy was at such a juvenile level it failed to produce results that

could be taken seriously – even by the Department concerned. After a long delay the professor of the Department carrying out the investigation reported to the Vice-Chancellor ‘with regret’:

I have come to the conclusion that the findings are not sufficiently conclusive to warrant serious consideration by the Library Committee.

(A very minor ‘artifact’, this one).

Committee to Study Library Classification

A more substantial lump of stoneware is the report of a ‘Special Committee Appointed by Council and Senate to Study the Classification Used in the Library’.

This committee of five was set up as a result of opposition by a minority of academic staff within the University (and certain persons outside it) to the Bliss Bibliographic Classification scheme and the use of stripdex catalogues. The Committee was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and its terms of reference were: ‘to study the merits and demerits of the system of classification used in the Library’. After considering 34 papers and comments by members of the academic staff and others, and 18 documents on the use of the scheme in the library, and holding three meetings, the members of the Special Committee agreed ‘*that on their intrinsic merits alone there is little to choose between one classification system and another*’.

They went on to recommend that a change should be made from the Bliss Bibliographic Classification to the Library of Congress Classification: thus contravening from start to finish University Statute X1, Sec. 3 (ii) which laid down that ‘subject to the supervision of the Library Committee’ – which had already been exercised – ‘the Librarian should be responsible for the arrangement and cataloguing of the Library’.

It seems to take about thirty years for innovations in library techniques and technology to be accepted by librarians, let alone busybodies who concern themselves with the internal administration of libraries. It is now 40 years since Ralph Shaw experimented with the Rapid Selector in the library of the United States Department of Agriculture, thus introducing to an unsuspecting world informational retrieval by machine, leading to the computer age in libraries, and (no doubt in future) the ultimate supersession of the need for library classification of books. How many small ‘artifacts’ besides the Bliss classification and stripdex catalogues (which could have produced much the same initial results) lie buried in the bibliothecal mud?

The University Librarian of 1959-62

If Donald Wijasuriya or his former colleagues ever take their archaeological picks, hammers, brushes and cameras to Pantai Valley – avoid the *Dryopithecus* skull fragments, the rust of early pen-knives and the more accessible debris of clay tablets in brickbat form that can be excavated in the Valley – it will be evident to them at the *palaeolithic* or *palaeobibliographic* University Librarian of 1959-1962 was very much of a windbag, spouting his opinions, pronouncements, assertions, exhortations, accusations and prophecies with only the slightest attempt to provide evidence that would support any of them.

One night, under the stars, he was on the padang in Malacca haranguing a crowd of Malays about the need for kampong libraries – which they had already begun to provide. Or he was at Ipoh, burbling about Ahmad, Ah Keng and Kandasamy (whoever they were) and dance hostesses and durians and the Malaya language – of which last he evidently knew very little. Or he spent many hours of time in the British Council hall in Kuala Lumpur uttering to the converted such platitudes as:

LIBRARIES ARE AN ECONOMIC NECESSITY! They are not a luxury, a cultural trimming, a welfare service ... They are an economic necessity!

(It must have been very boring.)

He obviously had several bees in his bonnet about university libraries, but he had a whole swarm of them buzzing around about libraries in general. He tactlessly incised a great quantity of clay tablets about the need for better school and public libraries with such ravings as:

Any national renaissance will start and be consolidated in the schools. Communalism will be ended in the schools. It is in the schools that the library habit will be formed. If children are habitual readers of books while they are at school and if they have access to books in public libraries after they leave school a generation of real Malayan citizens will be created and economic advance will be greatly accelerated.

Or this:

If education development is to be driven forward with determination a full programme of public library provision is needed to support it. To provide schools but not public libraries is largely a waste of money. In every town there needs to be a large public library with a full range of educational books and a library staff we educated and competent in library techniques. Some of the librarians in each library should have obtained professional library qualifications at a school of librarianship.

He particularly liked to yammer on about the lack of a national library and the provision of books in Malay, Tamil and Chinese; and in the tablets of the *Straits Times* in September 1960 he caused there to be cut with special lucky styluses a piece of fantasy entitled, 'The missing ingredient in Malaya's development drive' which resulted in Datuk Lee Kong Chian (as he then was) sending him a cheque for M\$500,000 to hand to the Prime Minister. Datuk Lee wrote that he had read the article and decided to donate the money to the Government of Malaya so that a national library might be established. The *palaeolithic* Librarian went immediately to see Datuk Lee and acknowledged his cheque and they had a long conversation on the need for a National Library. Frank Sullivan – who was Prime Minister's press secretary – took him to see the Prime Minister to whom he had already handed the cheque for M\$500,000. Later Frank told the Librarian that Datuk Lee, after that long conversation with him, had increased the initial gift by another M\$250,000. Neither of these gifts was announced by Government or received any publicity in the press up to 11 November 1962 when the Librarian left Malaya on final leave. Donald Pantai Valley ... debris, debris ... that cannot return ... as the poet Ralph Hodgson wrote so long ago:

*Time, you old gypsy man,
Will you not stay,
Put up your caravan
Just for one day?*

A TIME OF GROWTH

Beda Lim

Chief Librarian (1965 – 1980)



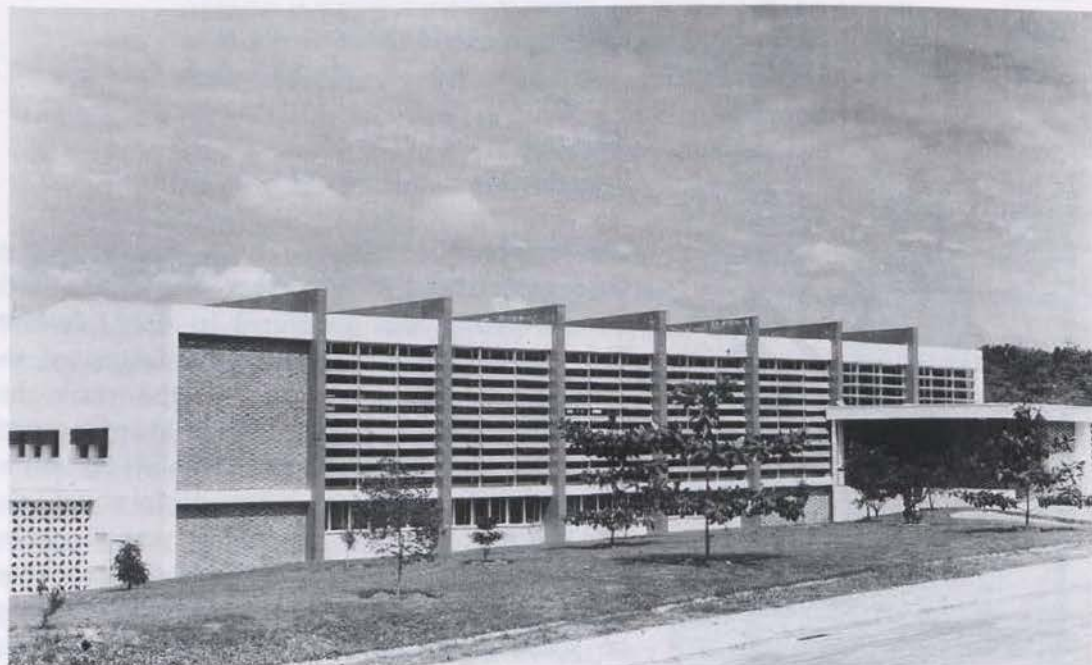
Introduction

The University of Malaya Library was first placed on a professional footing when Ernest H. Clark, from Australia, was appointed its first Librarian. This occurred in the early 1950s in Singapore, the then site of the University. In the years that followed, Clark, a very able librarian with leadership and managerial skills, applied himself to the task of recruiting more professional and non-professional staff, including several senior professional staff, of laying down work procedures, of adopting the Library of Congress classification, of planning the new Library building, and of planning the removal of the book stock from its temporary premises.

It was there that I joined the Library staff as a Library Assistant (Probationer) in 1952. In 1957 arrangements began to be made for the establishment of "the Kuala Lumpur Division, University of Malaya", and the Library began to acquire and process books for the library of that Division.

In August of that year I was transferred to the library of that Division. Clark supervised my work from Singapore, and he paid occasional visits to Kuala Lumpur. The Division then shared accommodation with the Technical College, Gurney Road, including office space and hostel rooms for students. The Division's library was housed on the mezzanine floor of the Technical College library building.

These temporary arrangements were to last until 1959, when the present campus in Pantai Valley became ready for occupation. This included a library building donated by the British government, now referred to as “the first phase of the Library building”. Clark was involved in the planning of this building, its shelving, and other equipment.



First phase of the Library

In that year the Kuala Lumpur Division, University of Malaya, was renamed “ the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur”, and the institution in Singapore was renamed “the University of Malaya in Singapore”. These two were teaching bodies, whereas the degree-granting body remained as “the University of Malaya”. In 1962 the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur was renamed “the University of Malaya” and the University of Malaya in Singapore “the University of Singapore”. It was later renamed “the National University of Singapore”.

It was in 1959 that Wilfred J. Plumbe, from Britain, was appointed Librarian of the University of Malaya. He was totally dedicated to his profession, and he had a vision of library development which extended beyond the walls of the library of which he was in charge. His coming was fortunate for me for I learnt a great deal from him. I had been promoted to Library Assistant (Qualified) in 1958, and it was while serving under him that I was promoted to Assistant Librarian in 1962.

From the time Plumbe came the Library made great strides forward. Expansion has continued unceasingly until the present day. Plumbe recruited more staff, both professional and non-professional. The Library began ordering and processing books and periodicals itself, where previously this task had been done in Singapore. Plumbe brought in the Library's first photocopier. It used bromide paper and a liquid developer, and a document needed about ten second's exposure to light to be copied. Better photocopiers were not to be seen until years later. Plumbe strove hard to obtain support for the establishment of a school of librarianship. He also campaigned for a national library, for public libraries, and for school libraries. He planned the second phase of the Library building, an extension to the first phase.

Unfortunately Plumbe did not stay long enough to see this extension. He resigned his post in 1962, and I was appointed Acting Librarian. In 1965 I was appointed Librarian. Expansion did not stop. The Library's budget grew every year without fail. So did the Library staff. In the year 1980, when I retired from my post, it stood at 254 (36 professional and 215 non-professional). The book stock was 700,000 volumes and the serials list 9,000 titles at that time. The Library also gave attention to a new technology of the time: reprography (microfilms, microfilm cameras, microfiches, a microfiche camera, plain-paper photocopiers, and paper masters for offset printing).

Brains, books, bricks. A word about the Library's accommodation may not be out of order. In 1980 this stood at 215,000 square feet of usable floor space (main Library, 110,000 square feet; Medical Library, 30,000 square feet; combined Law and Postgraduate Libraries, 75,000 square feet.).

From 1975, long discussions on computerization were held with members of the National Library of Malaysia and of the other Malaysian universities of the time. Implementation of the project was carried out only after 1980. Today, of course, computers in libraries are quite commonplace. Other technologies – e-mail, the Internet, and the multimedia services provided by World Wide Web (WWW) – have come into use. They pose challenges and opportunities, but I am sure the Library will handle them with ability and imagination. I am grateful for the strong management team I had (professional librarians who knew that they also needed to be problem-solvers) and for good back-up staff. I am also happy to have been followed by Mrs. Khoo Siew Mun, and later by her successor, Dr. Zaiton Osman, both most admirable choices for the position. Today, with "the New Wing" in place, I look back with fond memories of all staff at the Library, and with only this thought:

*To you from failing hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to hold it high.*

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS ... REMINISCING MY STINT AT THE UML

Mrs Khoo Siew Mun
Chief Librarian (1984 – 1993)



When I received the Library invitation to provide a piece of reminiscence for their publication to be issued in conjunction with the opening of the new library extension, I thought, ah! here's a chance for me, at last, to set down something about the Library where I don't have to do too much work. In which indeed, one can afford to be a little frivolous and lighthearted, hopefully without giving offence or judged to be too irreverent.

As the song goes, where shall I begin? Why, at the beginning of course; at least, so far as the story concerns me.

In the summer of 1975 I was given a stage to Paris. Four months of the most gloriously exhilarating days of *la culture* and civilisation followed the likes of which I have never been able to repeat. I returned to the Faculty of Economics & Administration, in which I had by then worked for some 15 years, charged with determination to improve its library services (for which I was responsible), established links with French institutions, and generally to repay the faculty at large in terms of better bibliographical services, for allowing me that wonderful opportunity. It was not to be. The Dean, Professor Mokhzani Abdul Rahim, best known for his obsession with uplifting expertise and providing career opportunities for his staff (among other enlightened achievements), alerted me to the vacancy of the Deputy Librarian's post at the University Library. To cut a long story short, that was the beginning of my next 17 years with the University.

What were my memories of early days?

Long, often impatient queues at the 'red-spot' counter was an unforgettable one. Red-spot books were then on the two floors of the present PPZ: science and technology on one floor, arts and humanities on the other. The queues merged as it meandered interminably, and I wonder whether friendships and perhaps even romances might not have had their genesis in that chaos. A feature of library administration that plagued me, personally, was the 'complaints' file. To a rather thick and tattered file was being added an unrelenting daily stream of further ones: all much of a kind—they could not find the books they wanted; the air-condition was deplorable; the library hadn't been able to purchase items long recommended for teaching; books long arrived were not yet on the shelves, etc., etc. Nothing that the Library didn't know about. I suspect most libraries are not ever free from one or the other of these complaints. The difference is that I was put in charge of 'problem-solving'!

Very early on in my association with the Library I realized that the one single resource of which the Library had in abundance was actually its human resources. Joe Howard once remarked to me that he had worked with many librarians and in quite a few libraries, but that for professionalism and commitment, very few matched those with whom he had worked at the UML. Joe came to UML as a young Peace Corps volunteer; he retired after a distinguished career with the LC and the NLA. Till today, he will gladly still reminisce upon his years at UM. While it is true that Joe was here in an earlier period, in the days of Donald Wijasuriya, Edward Lim, Nadasabapathy and George Ee, it was also true that most of the people included in his estimation were still around: Beda, Shaikha, Baradas, Soong, Eddy, Tsu-Ping, Ibrahim and Kok Sim. In 1976, we 'older fellows' were ably supported by a very sound tier of second-echelon professionals, being Emillia, Irene, Jeya, Kang Hai, Mercy, Monica, Mukhtiar, Noriyah, Puteh, Rohaya, Sai Noi, Siew Eng, Suan Hoon, Tunku Noraidah, Rashidan and Zan Rokiah. They in turn were fully backed by a whole host of excellent clerical, technical and para-professional staff. Individually, I realized that they were a talented and knowledgeable lot. Only, each one was an island. The synergy that comes from teamwork within a demanding and expectant environment, which is the essence of challenge to the human spirit, was then something that was just around the corner, waiting to be engendered. And I am privileged to have witnessed it and savoured it fully, in my later days.

I still remember the excitement, and the extreme frustration, of mounting the first-ever 'big' event for the Library—the book and periodical exhibition on South-East Asia and the companion publication of a holding list of materials on the region. The Library had published excellent publications before (bibliographical works by Edward and Nada, for example). But these were works by outstanding members of the Library, as individual authors. Our publication was put together by a volunteer team comprising senior and more junior members of the professional corps—nearly all of whom had never published anything before. Most important of all, the event was aligned with an academic event on campus—the launching of the South-East Asian studies course programme by the

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Preparations were accompanied by much nail-biting and nervous anxiety. The ending was like a traditional cowboy movie. The reception was gratifying, the staff were ecstatic and I was heavily relieved and encouraged. The 'good guys' had won, and the few 'baddies' (doubting thomases) silenced and quietly retreated.

This was a landmark event, to my mind. It was the model for many staff publications and bibliographical projects, big and small, over the rest of my tenure. In later years, we became a bit blasé over such activities and staff never again experienced the same degree of stage fright and uncertainty. But then, we also never again had to face the same problems: staff not knowing what to do; staff feeling that this was 'not their work' and therefore refusing to take part; and the lack of the most basic equipment and tools for accommodating such events.

In ancient China, budding artists copied old masters. In mediaeval Europe, aspiring craftsmen apprenticed themselves to learn from master craftsmen. The least that I could do, I thought, would be to emulate, in minor key, my 'masters' at the FEA, Royal Professor Ungku Aziz and Professor Mokhzani. Ungku had once remarked that if you refused to give leave to a staff when he needed it, he was with you physically, but his common sense would be somewhere else, and that surely was of no earthly use to anyone! Staff administration seemed an important issue. Thus though we at the Library didn't have one iota of their inherent talents or their experience, with both their support from the Administration, we set about this task. Eventually, Beda and I were able to put together a scheme for staff training and their higher education, and the University responded positively. This I firmly believe to have been the key to the Library's continued success. A more qualified staff meant greater confidence in himself. A better pool of colleagues overall meant an inherent genuine ability to cope with library problems. And those who had been given opportunities tended towards a more benign view of the institution. Consequently, important changes were effected in staff views and attitudes: from one of feeling exploited when given more work, to one of proud participation being based on newly-gained expertise.

Other Library achievements that remain fast in my memory include the clearing of the (infamous) cataloguing backlog of some 40,000 volumes in 1977; introduction of services to blind students with the establishing of the Audio division; the formulation of the National Collection for materials in all languages, including Malaysiana in Malay, English, Chinese and Tamil; inventoring the Library stock of books, then standing at about 800,000; the birth and the tenth anniversary of the Library journal, *Kekal Abadi*; Library involvement with the MLIS course at the IPT; the ability of the Library to obtain IRPA funding for bibliographic research; and the computerization of all Library processes, a long-drawn out agony that fortunately ended well. These and other Library milestones, have been documented.

Were all memories wrapped up with Library problems? By no means.

Over all those years, and with every single difficulty and event, problem, achievement or milestone, I counted upon a range of friends and colleagues to render assistance, give me sound advice, or otherwise bale me out! Chief amongst them must be counted all the Library Committee Chairmen who had the misfortune to be appointed to this vast and unglamorous, rather dilapidated and somewhat troublesome department, which was forever short of cash and quite a few other resources. An early highlight was when the Chairman, Professor Mokhzani supported the Library's request for 16 clerical posts at one recruitment exercise. This unheard-of decision was approved; and thus broke forever the problem of professional staff being bogged down by non-professional tasks. I also recall that Professor Asmah Haji Omar had more than the normal share of problems from the Library, but all were solved with grace and élan. Under Professor Khairuddin Yusoff, the Library managed to convince the then Minister for Education, now the Deputy Prime Minister, that RM2.4 million would be needed for its computerization. The Library Committee also successfully supported the Library's bid, under the 6th Malaysia Plan, for RM10 million for a new extension; and RM1.1 million for upgrading its computer system eventually. Each and every Chairman made his unique contribution. All steered the Library's affairs with a firm and fair hand. They will never know how much I owe them (and many of the Committee Members), my peace of mind. Somehow or other, each and everyone who was appointed got 'hooked' to the Library; enthusiastically sank their teeth into our problems (and not only the cakes served at committee meetings!).

This fortunate state even spilled over to the Computerization Sub-Committee. The Chairman, Professor Lee Poh Aun, and his team had the thrilling task of computerizing the Library, over 10 years! These doughty souls performed yeoman service; many became my fast and firm friends, and stood by me and with the Library, through thick and thin;--sometimes very thin indeed!

What of the good times? And what did I most enjoy from my stint at the Library?

I am a most gregarious person. At times, I have been even branded as a 'busybody' for my curiosity in people and interest in their projects. At the Library, one meets the most interesting people—academic staff from all the faculties; visitors from other universities (local and foreign); and external users of the Library who come from a wide range of professions, and whose information needs range from the most basic to the entirely exotic. This is what makes them individuals. This has also been true of the professionals whom I have been fortunate to meet at conferences here and abroad. Their conversation, world-view and simple stories and jokes have sustained and entertained me. Best of all, I have made, and retained, many warm friendships from amongst them. And as a 'books person' I rejoiced at the appearance of every one of the 55 library publications (including

the monumental Malay Catalogue) beginning with the first one on Poverty: a Bibliographical Essay in March 1976, prepared by 18 librarians.

Perhaps my biggest feeling of satisfaction came when I retired. For I retired knowing that the Library was in extremely good hands. Those taking over were more qualified, better equipped than the 'old guard'; they seemed equally charged with a sense of commitment. The Library therefore was set for bigger and better things; the way was forwards. The strong contribution by UM Library at CONSAL X in 1996, in organizing papers and paper-writers, and the holding of this Colloquium are but two examples of the high quality of the present leadership and overall professionalism.

I look back on my years at the Library with good memories and deep gratitude. I have, perhaps, made a small contribution. But I have gained many wonderful friends, and served with many talented colleagues from whom I have learnt a great deal. I have been given opportunities that are given to few others, and can only hope I did not fritter away too many. Altogether, I had a good innings. My experience is not unique. For those of us who have served, long or short stints at the Library, the experience has well been worth the stay. I started this piece as one where dates can be a little off, where footnotes are unimportant, and where 'facts' may stray a little, if harmlessly, from their exactitude. This piece, I felt, could be sans facts, sans footnotes and sans dating. A little of each has crept in. But readers will perhaps forgive an old lady—for old habits die hard! In ending, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Chief Librarian, Dr. Zaiton Osman, and her able colleagues on this auspicious and meaningful event. I wish them all the best in their endeavours, and thank them for allowing me to be a part of their celebration on this happy occasion.



Exhibition on Three Decades of the Department of Malay Studies

REMINISCENCES

Chay nee Wong Swee Hoo
[1958 – 1967]

We started out sharing with the Technical College at the mezzanine for the Arts books and a shed house for engineering books. We opened only at night from 7 pm to 10 pm for the 100 odd engineering students every evening. Mr Beda Lim was the Librarian. I was the only female amongst them. Naturally I married one of the students!

We shifted to the new library at Pantai and more staff joined us. I was in the acquisitions division and also at the counter where I had to work at night.



The first circulation counter

I enjoyed myself and made many friends whilst working there from 1 August 1958 to 1967.

Dr. D.E.K. Wijasuriya
[1959-1972]



RECOLLECTIONS

Introduction

The opening of the new wing of the University's Main Library building culminates four decades of growth and development of the University of Malaya Library (UML). These developments however have been well documented in a number of publications, in particular Wilfred J. Plumbe's 'The University of Malaya Library' (1962); 'The Golden Pagoda Tree' (1990) and 'Library Artifacts of 1959-1962' (1995); Beda

Lim's 'The University of Malaya Library Building' (1965); D.E.K. Wijasuriya's 'The University of Malaya Library: a developmental appraisal' (1973); Khoo Siew Mun's 'A wider based utilisation of university libraries: a case study of the Library, University of Malaya' (1982) and 'University of Malaya Library, 1959 – 1983: a library in transition' (1983).

This paper, largely based on the author's personal recollections, is written especially for the commemorative publication issued in conjunction with the official opening of the new wing of UML. It brings into focus the early years of UML and makes mention of those who served in days gone by --- some of whom still continue to serve --- and who have contributed towards making UML what it is today.

The Plumbe Period

Induction

I remember clearly the very first time I entered the University Library - it appeared pristine and somewhat antiseptic to me. Up to that time I had not been a frequenter or a user of libraries - not much anyway and rarely for serious pursuits. I had been persuaded to call on the University Librarian as the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur I was told was looking around for graduate assistants to serve in the library. Since I had the time I felt a visit to the university could do no harm. I subsequently did call on the University Librarian for what was supposed to be an informal chat but turned out to be an 'interview' which lasted about half an hour after which he said 'will you take the job

then' and I meekly said 'yes'. I must have surely been out of my mind for a career in libraries had never ever entered my mind.

Pioneer Staff

As it turned out I was the first of the graduate assistants appointed by the university to serve in the library. This was in September 1959. Several others followed not too long after. In 1960 Edward Lim Huck Tee and the late Baradas Gopal joined our ranks as library assistants, to be followed later by Soong Mun Wai, Chan Kai Meng, V. Nadanasabapathy, the late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin, the late Eddy Yeoh Hooi Hong and George Ee Cheng Hoe. It seems on hindsight that all the early appointees were male but at that time it did not strike us as significant.

Our mentor and guide in those early years was Wilfred Plumbe who served as University Librarian from 1959-1962. He was assisted by two other qualified staff - Hedwig Anuar who went on to become Director of the National Library of Singapore and Beda Lim who became University Librarian after Plumbe. Later, John Linford joined our ranks and served during Plumbe's tenure at the University.

Library Routines

UML then occupied a building donated by the Government of the United Kingdom which was strategically located at the university's new campus in Pantai Valley. Most of us worked in a single workroom irrespective of our individual tasks or duties except those on counter duties. As library assistants, we were the library's dogs bodies and had to undertake a variety of tasks including circulation counter duty, evening/night shift duty, checking shelf order, filing catalogue cards, checking lettering on the spines of books, switching off lights and locking up at closing time. Only a few of the brighter sparks among us were allowed to come to grips with those hallowed professional tasks of cataloguing and the application of the Bliss classification - none of which excited me particularly. What have I got myself into, I thought!!

Professional Foundation

The Plumbe period corresponded to our salad days and most of us attempted through self study to sit for the Part 1 Examination of the Library Association (UK) with varying degrees of success. We were also encouraged to attend lectures given by some of the senior staff who were professionally qualified. Two staff members were sent abroad on scholarships to undertake professional studies - Edward Lim Huck Tee to Australia and the author to the U.K. in March and August 1961 respectively. Those were indeed

halcyon days and an easy camaraderie developed among the staff. These links and relationships have remained despite the passage of years.

Those early years taught us much and later, when many of us moved into executive positions in libraries, professional qualification coupled with a solid foundation of practical experience stood us in good stead, for there were virtually no tasks that went on in libraries that we were not familiar with.

First Phase

During Plumbe's tenure, UML functioned in the original building mentioned earlier which later came to be referred to as the First Phase. By present day standards, the library was relatively small with a book stack capacity of 50,000 volumes and seating for 120 readers. During this period planning for UML's Second Phase of the building was set in motion. Plumbe, however, resigned in 1962 and never got to occupy the Second Phase whose planning he was largely responsible for.

The Lim Era

Accession

Beda Lim was in fact the very first staff member of UML in Kuala Lumpur, having been transferred from the University of Malaya Library (then in Singapore) to the Kuala Lumpur Branch which was set up in 1957 in temporary premises prior to the development of the campus in Pantai Valley. Beda Lim, however, only assumed the mantle of office in 1962 and served in that capacity until 1980. He was the longest serving University Librarian and must be credited for much of UML's growth and development during the first two decades. The author, however, is not qualified on the basis of his personal recollections to comment on the period after 1975 since his direct links with UML ceased in 1972, having been seconded to the National Library of Malaysia (June 1972 – March 1975), thereafter being absorbed within the Public Service.

Staff Expansion

For the first time, a number of graduate assistance of the female gender were appointed, all of whom were outstanding - a number of names come to mind and include Joyce Kho, Sylvia Stevens, Fan Kok Sim, Shaikha Zakaria, Zaiton Osman (currently University Librarian), Yolanda Beh, Tsu Ping Woodhull, Alice Low, Jeyadevi Ponnodurai, Agnes How Mei Ching, Ho Chooi Hon, Irene Choo Sau Peng, Monica Yoong Sim Joo, Tan Siew Eng and others. There were outstanding male officers appointed too but only

Ibrahim Ismail's name comes to mind - perhaps he was the only one. The male gender in libraries, it seems, was becoming an endangered species.

Looking back, it seems that one of UML's great strengths throughout has been the high calibre of its staff especially at the professional level. But there were capable staff at the non-professional level too - Kaw Hun Woon, Wong Swee Ho, V. Ikshuvanam, Wong Guat Neoh, Beatrice Ponniah, Ng Hock Swee, Low Yin Pheng, Abu Hazar, Wan Chung Wei, the late Chua Kuay Lay, and a few others who worked with a high sense of responsibility.

While promotional positions in UML at the professional level were increasingly being filled by qualified Malaysians, there was one notable exception when John Harris was appointed as Assistant Librarian. John Harris however also reduced UML's professional ranks when he married Sylvia Stevens and took her with him to the UK when his contract expired. As I recall, (Sylvia worked in Reader Services with me) the romance developed during a staff trip to Port Dickson but it only dawned on us much later. That trip to PD was especially memorable with some of us attempting to retrieve a set of false teeth one of the staff members lost in PD waters - a virtually impossible task. All of this also illustrates another facet of UML's yesterdays - there were many fun times. At this time UML also benefited from the services of U.S. Peace Corps volunteers - Joseph. H. Howard and Alice Lage. Joe, who was very popular with staff and students served in Reader Services for a short spell and subsequently went on to compile 'Malay manuscripts: a bibliographic guide' which was published by UML in 1966 while Alice Lage served in Cataloguing.

Library School

Mention must also be made of the late Fredrick George Baxendale Hutchings who was attached to UML at this time - not as a staff member but as Visiting Lecturer in Librarianship on two-year secondment from the Library Association (UK). Fred, as he was popularly called, left in 1965 when his term expired. Fred's sojourn in Malaysia had also been initiated by Wilfred Plumbe although it materialised long after Plumbe's departure. Plumbe had also stated in his article in the *Malayan Library Journal* (1962) that 'the University of Malaya Senate had approved in principle, subject to certain provisos that accommodation be made available for a school of librarianship in the new library building'. (second phase of UML). While space of about 2,000 sq.ft. was made available for this purpose, the school was not set up and if memory serves me right, the space was used instead for the Cataloguing workroom.

A few member of UML's staff, in particular Edward Lim Huck Tee, John Harris, the late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin and the author assisted Hutchings in conducting lectures geared to the professional examinations of the Library Association (UK). During this

period Hutchings pushed for the establishment of a School of Librarianship at the university and was closely associated with the first Memorandum for a Library School which was submitted by the Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia (P.P.M.) to the University of Malaya in 1965. This initiative proved to be abortive. In 1971 the P.P.M. set up a Working Committee to prepare a Memorandum for a Post Graduate School of Librarianship and Archives for submission to the University of Malaya. The late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin (who chaired the Committee), Radha Nadarajah and the author prepared the Memorandum for the P.P.M. which was submitted to the University in 1972. The library school issue has impinged on UML at various times in subsequent years but lies outside the purview of this paper.

Reclassification Project

Among the early challenges Beda Lim had to face as University Librarian was the reclassification of UML's collection of books from the Bliss Bibliographic Classification to the Library of Congress (L.C.) classification system. A Special Committee of the University Council and Senate set up in October 1961 to study the classification system used in the library recommended that the collection be reclassified from Bliss to L.C. The actual work of reclassification however was only undertaken from January – May 1964, by which time both Edward Lim Huck Tee and the author had resumed duties in UML after successfully completing professional studies abroad. The entire exercise was accomplished outside normal working hours with a handful of staff working overtime, all of whom were paid a special honorarium for undertaking the task. The Reclassification Project team was led by Edward Lim Huck Tee. It was a record performance and some 60,000 volumes were reclassified -some individuals in the team setting unbelievable daily output figures which have rarely if ever been bettered.

Second Phase

The Second Phase of the building was completed in April 1963 and the library moved into it soon after. The building had a capacity of 300,000 volumes and seating for 480 readers. In later years, the Second Phase presented a number of maintenance problems that proved extremely difficult to solve. One was the problem of roof leaks arising from the use of concrete slabs on flat roofs and the other was the inadequate damp proof seal on the ground floor resulting in the loosening and peeling up of floor tiles due to moisture build-up beneath the tiles.



Library building

New Challenges

Over the years, UML collections continued to grow at an unprecedented rate while student numbers increased significantly year after year. This precipitated planning for the Third Phase into which UML overflowed towards the end of the decade.

Old routines at a greatly increased order of magnitude posed a constant challenge. Longer queues at the circulation and red-spot counters, reshelving books and maintaining good shelf order continued to be major problems. A new grade of staff called 'Checkers' and 'Overcheckers' had to be instituted to cope with the increased workload and also to cope with the increased phenomenon of book losses. A study undertaken by UML showed that book losses had assumed alarming proportions.

The increased student numbers and growing collections necessitated publication of UML's *Guide to the Library* followed by guided tours for each new intake of students as well as special lectures to post-graduate students at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education.

In the mid sixties, the author, then Head of Reader Services was approached by B.A.V. Peacock (of the History Department) to undertake on behalf of the Malaysian Branch of

the Royal Asiatic Society the compilation of a comprehensive index to the journals of the Society. The work of compiling the index was undertaken jointly with Edward Lim Huck Tee.

Working in their personal capacities outside normal working hours, the task was finally completed in 1968. *Index Malaysiana* covered issues of the Straits and Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society from 1878 to 1963. Working in the carrels in the Second Phase (courtesy of the University Librarian) the task of compiling the index proved to be a tedious one. *Index Malaysiana* was published by the Society in 1970.

While UML's collection were used extensively by the teaching staff and students, there appeared to be little involvement of the professional staff of UML in research work being undertaken apart from the work of tracing or acquiring specific documents at the request of teaching staff. UML's resources were also well used by non-members of the university. The author still recalls the research work undertaken by R. Ramani - Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations - in preparing Malaysia's response in regard to the Philippine Claim to Sabah. Ramani worked in one of the carrels in the Second Phase - the author being responsible for tracing and assembling for Ramani's perusal a wide range of relevant documents. The author remembers arranging for the chains across the drive-way to the main entrance of UML to be removed on each of Ramani's visits so that his Rolls Royce could be driven right up to the main entrance.

Professional Resource

There was little doubt that from the mid sixties and possibly until the early seventies, UML had the largest concentration of professional talent in the country. The University Librarian served on the National Library Committee (chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government) which was responsible for some of the early policy decisions in regard to the National Library of Malaysia. The author served on the National Bibliography Advisory Committee (National Archives of Malaysia) which resulted in the publication of the first issue of *Bibliografi Negara Malaysia*. Several members of UML staff including the University Librarian, the late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin, George Ee Cheng Ho, Edward Lim Huck Tee and the author served on the Council and Committees of the P.P.M. for many years. As new libraries were set up in the country, members of UML staff became the natural choice to head or fill positions in these institutions. Shaikha Zakaria was perhaps the first to leave to head the Library at the Standards Institution of Malaysia. Others left at later stages. Mention is made of a few of them and include in particular, the late Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin who joined the National Library Services Unit, National Archives of Malaysia and went on from there to become University Librarian at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Edward Lim Huck Tee who was appointed University

Librarian at Universiti Sains Malaysia and the author who was seconded by the Government to the National Library of Malaysia.

Third Phase

The Third Phase of the building did present a special problem in spatial terms which militated against its fullest use. For some reason the Third Phase of the building was constructed without the minimum floor load of 150 lb. per sq. ft. as a result of which the shelves had to be spaced out somewhat in order to distribute stress in terms of floor load. This only proved to be a minor hiccup as the building has held up well over the years. Decisions to maximise floor space in planning the Third Phase led to the construction of three floor levels to fit within the same height as the ground and first floors of the Second Phase. Due to the difference in floor levels above the ground floor between the Second and Third Phase, the movement of staff, students and of library materials between these Phases had to be effected through connecting staircases between floors. This proved to be not too much of a problem in terms of the movement of people (UML's service lift only served the Second Phase of the building) but it did inconvenience staff in the movement of library materials as book trolleys could not easily be made to negotiate the staircases.



Third phase of the Library

The expansion of UML's physical facilities in terms of the main library have hitherto been a series of architectural grafts --- each Phase grafted on or attached to the previous building. This has on the whole been effected quite successfully both from a functional as well as an aesthetic point of view.

Concluding Remarks

It has been a privilege to have served in UML and I look back to my yesterdays in the cloisters of academia with some nostalgia. UML has always been one of the nation's premier libraries. Few will dispute the fact that it has been and still is a centre of excellence and an important node in the country's national information system.

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Wong Guat Neoh
[1960 – 1995]



REFLECTIONS

Each time when I think of the University of Malaya Library it always brings back happy memories. I saw the Library grew from a small institution into what it is today, with all the modern facilities. The staff grew from a handful to more than two hundred. During my thirty five years nine months service I worked under four librarians – Mr W.J. Plumbe, Mr Beda Lim, Mrs Khoo Siew Mun and Dr Zaiton Osman. This was one place where we all learnt to carry out our duties and responsibilities to the best of our abilities. The library staff is the most cooperative staff I have come across.

I started working in the Library as a young girl on February 1st 1960. At that time the Library building was only from where the present Perpustakaan Peringatan Za'ba stands to the Readers' Services Division, with the washrooms upstairs where the Restricted Books Room is. Every morning as I walked from the bus stop outside the campus from the Kuala Lumpur gate, I enjoyed looking at the clear blue lake and the peaceful surroundings with the 1st and 2nd Residential Colleges and Engineering Faculty on the left and the Arts Faculty which also housed the Science Department and the Administration Office opposite the Library. The Science Faculty and Agriculture Faculty were under construction. At the Arts concourse was a little canteen where lunch was served with three dishes for an average of sixty cents per person.

I remember the time when the second phase of the Library was constructed. The wall of the first phase had to be broken down and the building was sealed from the entrance to PPZ. For three months we were confined to the small area and had to use the small door at the back. We also had to use the toilets at the Arts Faculty, but no one complained about the inconvenience.

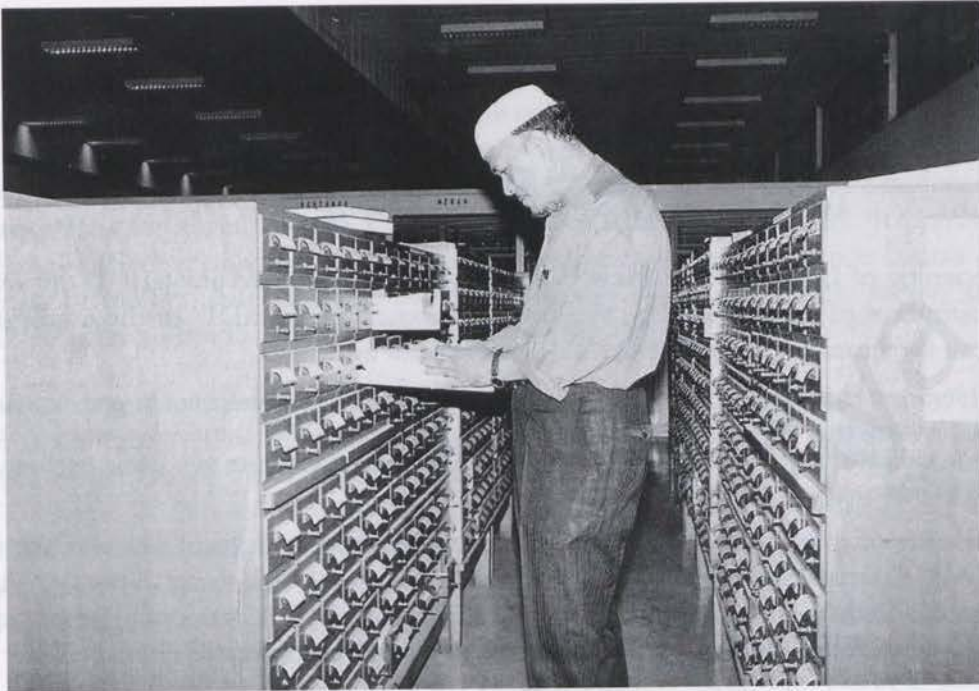


Stripdex catalogue

Throughout the history of the Library we have had different types of catalogue – from the stripdex to card and now on computer. The stripdex was quite an interesting catalogue. The author and title entries were typed onto sheets of strips. The strips were then separated and filed accordingly on metal panels. These panels were covered with plastic sheets to prevent the strips from falling out. They were then mounted onto steel stands which could be rotated. I was in charge of filing the stripdex catalogue. One certainly needs nimble fingers for this!

From the stripdex we converted to card catalogue and then onto computer. I still remember the time when my knowledge of the computer was poor and I accidentally wiped out everything in it. Mrs. Tan Siew Eng was very patient. She did not scold me or use harsh words on me, but instead she patiently taught me. Later on I was able to teach others how to input.

I have been very fortunate to have worked with people who had always been good to me. My years of service in the University of Malaya Library have been the happiest ones in my life and I shall always remember them. We were like one big family working together.



Card catalogue



Searching the online catalogue

M. Arivananthan P.P.N.
[1960 – 1993]

That one man should die ignorant who had the capacity for knowledge, this I call tragedy - Carlyle

The opening of U.M. Library's New Wing gives me great joy. In any part of the world, in any institution of higher learning, the library becomes the "NADI" of the establishment. Without the library, it would be like a desert without an oasis.

U.M. Library which has the most comprehensive collection of journals, books and assortment of reference materials is the sanctuary for students and academics alike. During the long period of my service in the U.M. Library, I proudly watched so many students graduate to become intellectuals and prominent leaders of our country.

My memory of days spent in the U.M. Library will remain evergreen. The way the staff of the U.M. Library rendered their services to all with a smile, is a thing to ponder. And the fine understanding and goodwill that prevailed among the professional library staff and the general staff is something unique and a very pleasant memory to cherish all my life.

Beatrice Samuel
[1962 – 1982]



MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE ...

With nostalgic feelings I recall my days in the University of Malaya Library. On 2nd April, 1962 I became a staff of the library. I was sorry to see Mr Plumbe who gave me the job, resigned shortly and took off to Ghana. At the time the Library (Phase 1 only) looked like a mini zoo, situated down the valley amidst the forest of trees and green bushes all over the campus.

I am proud to say, I had worked closely with such eminent librarians like Beda Lim, Edward Lim, Donald Wijasuriya, the late Baradas Gopal and Mrs Khoo Siew Mun. I practically grew up along with the library - from Miss Beatrice Ponniah to Mrs Beatrice Samuel and later a mother of three

children. In the beginning, since the staff were few, there was a lot of 'togetherness'. There were lots of outings, sports, parties, annual dinners, etc. The Library officers were a generous lot. They always subsidised for the general staff. There were some lovely get-together events when Dr Zaiton was the 'social secretary' for the Library. I was deeply touched when Mrs Khoo sent me a lovely bouquet of flowers when I was a patient in the University Hospital, even though I was then, an ex-staff of the Library. Recently, too, one Library officer sponsored my son for his Certificate in Legal Practice course in the University of Malaya, when it came to her knowledge that I was unable to pay for my son. What a generous and caring lot, the officers were.

One bitter sweet memory took place for me in the mid sixties. One morning when I arrived at the Library I saw smoke seeping through the Library. The security system was not installed yet. I rang Beda at his home. He quickly asked me to dial 999 and call for the fire service. Within 10 minutes 2 engines arrived and put off the fire. There was no materialistic reward but I received a letter of commendation. I became miserable because my colleagues teased me and called me names like fire-fighter, Bomba etc. for a long time. So much suffering for doing a good job.

The Library has always been the 'internet' of the campus. Scandals, gossips, romance, secrets which were official or personal, were common knowledge in the Library. Because of the 'huge family', nearly every day we were either sympathising with a colleague, laughing at someone's folly or watching a romance blooming. *C'est la vie*. Dear Library with all your success and failures, I love thee still.

I wish to end my memories with this verse. I am sure my Bahasa teachers will be glad to know that there was a student who paid attention in class.

*Bertemu dan berpisah
Adat manusia biasa
Hilang di mata
Tapi di hati jangan lupa
Berdoalah kita
Agar aman dan sentosa
Semuga kita jumpa
Tempat ini lain masa*

Fan nee Lee Kok-Sim
[1964 - 1983]

My congratulations and very best wishes to you (Dr Zaiton Osman) and your staff on the forthcoming official opening of the new wing of the University of Malaya Library on 3rd November 1997.

It must have been very exciting and challenging to plan and see through the completion of the new building and to organize the new services. No doubt, the University of Malaya Library will continue to shine as a beacon of enlightenment and knowledge for the University as well as the academia at large.

Wakiman bin Waket
[1965 - 1993]



Saya berasa terhutang budi dan amat berterima kasih kepada pihak Universiti Malaya, khususnya Perpustakaan yang telah menganggap saya salah seorang ahli keluarga dan staf Universiti Malaya.

Saya telah berkhidmat selama 30 tahun di Perpustakaan ... Di awal tahun 70an satu bahagian yang dikenali sebagai Bahagian Audio Visual telah diasaskan oleh Ketua Pustakawan, Encik Beda Lim dan Timbalannya, Puan Khoo Siew Mun, di Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya ...

Di dalam tahun 80an, Yang Mulia Profesor DiRaja Ungku Abdul Aziz, Naib Canselor Universiti Malaya telah mengilhamkan satu projek perintis lagu-lagu tradisional untuk tujuan ujikaji mahasiswa-mahasiswa di Universiti.

Yang demikian saya dengan kerjasama Encik Arif Ahmad, Pengarah Pusat Kebudayaan Universiti Malaya, telah dengan seberapa daya upaya mencari dan mendapatkan tiga orang tokoh pemuzik veteran tanah air. Mereka ialah Hamzah Dolmat dan 5 orang krew bagi lagu-lagu asli, Ahmad Jusoh dan 4 orang krew bagi lagu-lagu ghazal, dan Raden Maroeti dan 5 orang krew bagi lagu-lagu keroncong

Rakaman semua ketiga-tiga lagu tradisional ini dilakukan secara terus menerus 'live' di Auditorium Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya. Rakamannya dimuatkan di dalam bentuk

pita gulung (open reels) dan satu salinan pita kaset perakaman ketiga-tiga lagu muzik tradisional itu disimpan rapi di Bahagian Audio Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya. Tajuk dan jumlah lagu-lagu tradisional yang terdapat di Auditorium adalah lagu-lagu asli oleh Orkes Hamzah Dolmat sebanyak 180 lagu, lagu-lagu ghazal oleh Seri Maharani Ghazal sebanyak 170 lagu dan lagu-lagu keroncong oleh Orkes Keroncong Maroeti sebanyak 160 lagu.



Orkes Allahyarham Hamzah Dolmat

Sebuah album lagu-lagu Asli bertajuk *Hamzah Dolmat Dalam Kenangan* telah dihasilkan. Tujuan asal adalah semata-mata untuk disumbangkan kepada balu Allahyarham Hamzah Dolmat dan keluarga dan telah disempurnakan di majlis Penyampaian Sumbangan yang telah dirasmikan penyampaian oleh Yang Mulia Profesor DiRaja Ungku Abdul Aziz, Naib Canselor Universiti Malaya, di Rumah Universiti.

Saya merasa bahan-bahan koleksi yang sedia ada itu amatlah berguna dan alat-alat audio pandang dengar serta perakamnya masih terkini. Tambahan pula bahan-bahan yang disimpan di Perpustakaan itu boleh dijadikan bahan untuk pengajian dan penyelidikan mahasiswa-mahasiswi ataupun industri muzik tanah air.

Yahya Surip
[1971 – 1994]



PERPUSTAKAAN UNIVERSITI MALAYA: KENANGAN MENGUSIK RASA

Seorang rakan cuba mencari erti dari suatu perjalanan yang pernah ditempuhinya. Ia termangu seketika. Terasa sulit baginya untuk memaknakan pengalamannya itu. Kenangan demi kenangan berduluan datang memburu ingatannya. Segalanya indah. Segalanya mengusik perasaan. Tidak tahu mana satu mau dipilihnya untuk diabadikannya.

Begitulah saya sewaktu menerima pelawaan Puan Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Penerbitan sempena pembukaan rasmi bangunan tambahan baru Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya. Beliau adalah ketua saya sewaktu saya bertugas di Perpustakaan Undang-Undang Universiti Malaya.

Saya ketandusan kata-kata untuk merakamkan pengalaman saya selama lebih dua dekad bertugas di Universiti Malaya. Apa yang indah boleh saya kisahkan? Apa yang molek manis untuk saya ehwalkan.

Terasa diri amat kerdil untuk bercerita tentang Perpustakaan.

Seorang sahabat memerhati keliling dan bertanya: Foto itu, katanya, di mana diambil? Bila? Untuk apa? Tambahnya sambil menunjuk ke arah foto saya yang dengan bangga saya pamer di ruang tamu. Saya terkesiap seketika. Terasa diri seolah mau menunjuk-nunjuk!

Pada dinding yang tidak begitu rapi sapuan catnya, tergantung gambar saya menjunjung kasih Tuanku Canselor Universiti Malaya sewaktu menerima Sijil Perkhidmatan Setia genap dua puluh tahun berkhidmat di Universiti Malaya.

Saya tidak menjawab pertanyaan sahabat tadi. Di sebelah foto itu saya pamerkan juga sijilnya.

Sembilan belas Ogos 1971. Buat pertama kalinya saya menyusuri Lingkungan Budi menuju ke sebuah bangunan yang kedudukannya begitu strategik. Di sekelilingnya adalah bangunan fakulti yang penting: Sains, Ekonomi, Sastera, Pendidikan dan sedikit menjauh di ujung sana, Fakulti Kejuruteraan.

Dengan laku 'seekor rusa masuk kampung', saya berhenti beberapa kali menatap sekitar. Oh ... di mana saya sekarang? Mau bertanya terasa malu. Namun bertanya jugalah saya sudahnya kepada salah seorang Pengawal Keselamatan yang kebetulan lewat di situ. Encik ..., saya bersuara gugup. Mana satu bangunan Perpustakaan?

Dan dengan rasa gemetar masuklah saya ke sebuah bangunan di mana terdapatnya ruang-ruang pejabat, kaunter, meja-kerusi dan deretan rak-rak. Di sini saya hitung-hitung jumlah buku-buku melebihi beratus kali ganda jumlah manusia di dalamnya.

Kemudian, di tingkat atas itu saya duduk berhadapan seorang pegawai yang pernah saya dengar namanya tetapi baru kali ini saya tatap wajahnya. Seorang lelaki bertampang gagah dengan airmuka yang jernih. Beliau adalah Encik Beda Lim, Ketua Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya.

Encik Yahaya, kata Encik Beda Lim dengan lembut. Lepas ini nanti berjumpalah dengan Encik Eddie Yeoh, Ketua RSD, dan lapor diri di sana. Encik Yahaya boleh mula bertugas hari ini.

Encik Eddie Yeoh (kini mendiang), memeranjatkan saya apabila menyapa saya dengan kata: Aaa..., cikgu sudah datang!

Saya terkesima. Dari mana Encik Eddie Yeoh mendapat tahu maklumat ini?

Beberapa tahun kemudian barulah saya sedar rupanya dalam borang permohonan saya dahulu antara lain, ada saya sebutkan bahawa saya pernah menjadi guru di sebuah sekolah di Tanjung Karang. Beliau adalah juga salah seorang penemu-duga yang meminta saya menjawab soalnya dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Dan saya, dengan tergagap-gagap, telah cuba menjawab soalan-soalan yang dikemukakan dalam bahasa Inggeris saya yang tunggang terbalik!

RSD adalah singkatan dari Readers' Services Division. Oleh kerana waktu itu saya tinggal di Bangsar, saya di tempatkan dalam kelompok Kumpulan Kuala Lumpur. Satu kumpulan lagi adalah Kumpulan Petaling Jaya. Kami bertugas syif. Seminggu bertugas siang dan seminggu berikutnya bertugas malam.

Seorang rakan memberitahu: Jawatan kita ini satu jawatan baru. Belum pernah terdapat di mana-mana perpustakaan. Ianya dikenali sebagai Penyemak Perpustakaan atau sering juga disebut Library Checker.

Pertama kali saya menjamah buku di rak-rak saya merasa terkejut. Mengapa ada buku yang begitu tipis, terbina dari cuma beberapa lembar kertas yang sesetengahnya pula terdiri dari helaian-helaian salinan foto, dengan judulnya ada yang ditulis tangan sahaja

ditempatkan berserta buku-buku tebal dan besar di rak-rak. Saya tidak pernah menemukan buku-buku sedemikian itu di mana-mana kedai buku.

Sungguh, perpustakaan bukan sebuah kedai buku!

Bertugas gilir-masa atau syif ini merupakan satu pengalaman baru bagi saya. Sewaktu melapor diri tempoh hari grup atau kumpulan Kuala Lumpur sedang dalam giliran bertugas pagi. Saya tidak merasa apa-apa. Bangun pagi pergi kerja. Petangnya pulang ke rumah. Tetapi pada suatu hari berlakulah ke atas diri saya sedikit ketidak-fahaman.

Seorang rakan dari kumpulan PJ menemui saya di kaunter. Dia waktu itu dalam giliran bertugas pagi. Oleh kerana esok harinya ia ada hal penting, dia telah meminta saya yang waktu itu bertugas malam, bertukar syif dengannya pagi esok. Dan saya dengan senang hati telah menyanggupinya.

Esok paginya saya tidak datang bertugas!

Seperti biasa saya datang petang. Encik Atan (kini Allahyarham), Ketua Kumpulan KL, memandang saya dengan mata terbeliak. Mulutnya ternganga luas tetapi tiada suara dilepas keluar. Ia menggeleng-gelengkan kepala dan kemudian mendekati saya.

Kenapa awak tak datang kerja pagi tadi? Tanyanya dengan suara garau. Saya terpinga-pinga. Semua rakan memandang ke arah saya. Bukankah minggu ini kita kerja petang? Jawab saya dengan muka bodoh. Encik Atan menjegilkan matanya: Awak sudah janji hendak tukar syif dengan Chandran, kan? Chandran tak datang, awakpun tak datang juga. Kami sudah kekurangan seorang kakitangan pagi tadi, awak tau? Tambahnya. Matanya masih lebar luas memandangi saya. Allah..., bisik saya menepuk dahi. Saya terlupa...! Kata saya lagi dengan mata terkebil-kebil.

Habis, sekarang macam mana? Tanya Encik Atan lagi. Saya diam sahaja. Awak baliklah dulu. Bila-bila ada off nanti awak datanglah bekerja.

Encik Atan seorang yang baik hati. Suatu hari saya menumpang keretanya pulang ke rumah. Tiba di suatu simpang, lampu isyarat kebetulan sedang bertukar merah.

Semua kereta berhenti. Bila lampu hijau menyala semula Encik Atan terlambat menukar gear. Kereta di belakang menjerit-jeritkan honknya. Encik Atan menarik hand-brake dan keluar. Kereta Encik Atan sebuah kereta Volkswagen model beetle. Ia ke belakang, membuka bonnet dan memeriksa sesuatu. Semua kereta di belakang terpaksa menunggu Encik Atan 'memeriksa' injin. Hendak memotong ke kanan tidak boleh. Kereta-kereta lain menerpa laju. Lampu isyarat bertukar merah semula. Encik Atan menutup bonnet dan masuk semula ke keretanya. Sebaik sahaja lampu hijau menyala Encik Atan memecut laju.

Apanya yang rosak, Encik Atan? Saya bertanya. Encik Atan membuang senyum kelat. Saya tak suka, katanya dengan geram. Orang di belakang sibuk honk-honk kereta saya.

Saya tahulah nak jalankah atau nak berhenti. Tambahnya dengan muka masam seolah-olah cuka sebotol terjirus tumpah ke tampangnya.

Pada waktu yang lain dia tidak memandu. Ia datang dengan motor. Dipelawanya saya menumpang. Di simpang mana pula kereta Encik Atan itu 'rosak' hari ini? Saya menggurainya. Rosak apa pula? Kereta tu OK. Jawabnya sedikit garang. Anak saya bawa pergi Penang!

Waktu itu membonceng motor tidak banyak masalah. Topi keledar belum diwajibkan memakainya.

Bagi saya bertugas malam ada sedikit lainnya. Gerai makan atau yang kami sebut kafeteria, tidak dibuka waktu malam. Kami kena bawa bekal dari rumah ataupun minta kirim pada kawan beli di luar.

Suatu ketika isteri saya pulang kampung ke Kota Bharu. Saya datang bertugas malam dengan perut kosong dan tangan kosong. Rakan tempat kami selalu minta kirim beli nasi tidak pula datang bertugas hari ini. Ai..., di mana pula nak dapatkan makanan malam ini nanti? Fikir hati saya.

Encik Atan lambat sedikit datang hari ini. Seorang rakan memberitahu. Ada hal penting di rumahnya. Tambahnya lagi. Wah..., tak ada can tumpang keluar beli makanan nampaknya malam ini! Keluh saya lagi. Tapi tidak lama sesudah kami memulakan tugas syif malam petang itu, Encik Atan muncul. Wajahnya nampak berseri-seri seolah-olah naik nombor kena loteri. Sebuah senyuman terukir manis dibibirnya. Jangan risau, katanya sambil terus juga tersenyum gembira. Malam ini kita makan nasi minyak! Saya tersentak tak percaya. Berguraukah Encik Atan ini?

Anak sulung saya bertunang, katanya kemudian. Itulah saya lambat datang. Saya ada bawa nasi dan lauk-lauk dalam kereta. Time makan nanti pergilah ambil. Alhamdulillah ..., bisik hati saya penuh kesyukuran.

Encik Atan kalau fasal makan tidak lupa teman-teman.

Tugas checker hampir menyerupai tugas kerani. Cuma barangkali gajinya yang tidak serupa. Setiap kali ada kekosongan jawatan kerani, baik di perpustakaan maupun di jabatan lain, kami sibuk memohon. Saya juga tidak ketinggalan minta borang. Selang beberapa minggu kemudian, kami menerima surat dari Bahagian Perjawatan.

Temuduga? Ehh..., belum lagi..., Kena buat ujian dulu!

Dalam ujian itu kami disyaratkan lulus ujian menaip. Waahh, ini sudah satu ujian berat. Kenapa? Saya menaip guna satu jari sahaja. Kata orang: menaip 'catuk ayam kenyang'! Ayam kalau sudah kenyang, mencatuk makanan pun nampak malas saja. Catuk satu..., satu..., satuuu. Lambaat...! Begitulah saya menaip.

Saya lulus ujian menulis (karangan), tetapi tidak lulus menaip. Dan yang demikian itu balikkah saya meneruskan tugas di kaunter penyemak semula.

Ada lebih dari tiga atau empat kali kami memohon jawatan kerani. Namun hasilnya serupa sahaja. Tidak lulus menaip.

Seorang rakan mencadangkan supaya kami yang gagal menaip itu merayu kepada Bahagian Perjawatan, melalui Presiden Kesatuan kami, agar ujian menaip itu dikecualikan. Apa perlunya menaip bagi seorang kerani? Kami menghujah. Jurutaip bukankah ada?

Presiden Kesatuan kami seorang yang bijak. Ia memandang kami seorang lepas seorang. Kalau ujian itu memerlukan kamu semua lulus menaip, mengapa tidak belajar menaip? Ujarnya ringkas.

Untuk beberapa bulan lepas itu, bila ada lebihan gaji, saya berdikit-dikit menyimpan (istilah sekarang menabung!). Saya membeli sebuah mesin taip second-hand. Dan untuk memahirkkan diri menaip dengan sepuluh jari, saya cuba-cuba menaip puisi dan cerpen. Kebetulan waktu itu Universiti Malaya menerbitkan akhbar kampusnya yang diberi nama 'Budiman'. Saya cuba mengasah minat saya menulis puisi dan berita-berita ringkas mengenai SEKAUM di akhbar Budiman itu.

SEKAUM adalah singkatan dari nama sebuah kelab dalaman kampus, iaitu: Senibudaya Kakitangan Am Universiti Malaya. Ianya diilhamkan oleh Encik Arif Ahmad, Pegawai Pusat Kebudayaan Universiti Malaya, yang juga menjadi penasihatnya. Ramai juga rakan-rakan dari Perpustakaan menganggotai kelab itu.

Encik Arif (sekarang bergelar Dr Arif) telah bermurah hati membenarkan kami mengadakan siri latihan setiap hujung minggu di Dewan Tunku Canselor, di Panggung Eksperimen atau di bilik-bilik kelas di bawah pimpinan seniman seniwati terkenal tanahair. Antaranya termasuklah: seniman Aziz Jaafar, seniwati Normadiah, dramatis Aziz Singh, karyawan-budayawan dari RTM dan Kementerian Kebudayaan, dan seniman dramatis Salim Bachik (kini Allahyarham).

Saya tidaklah aktif sangat dengan sesi latihan itu. Rakan-rakan lain yang mana pandai menyanyi, menyanyilah mereka. Yang pandai berlakon, berdrumlah mereka. Dan yang mahir menggunakan alat-alat muzik, bergesek dan bergendanglah mereka.

Saya cuma menonton. Kerana saya tidak pandai menyanyi, menari atau berlakon.

Suatu hari akhbar Budiman menyiarkan berita mengenai kekosongan jawatan di beberapa jabatan dan fakulti. Antaranya ialah jawatan kerani. Aaa..., ini peluang baik. Bisik hati saya. Dan beberapa hari selepas borang permohonan saya kemukakan, sibuklah saya 'practice' menaip di rumah (Presiden Kesatuan kami dulu kata: belajar menaip, kan...? kan...?). Entahkan tumpul entahkan dampak jari-jemari saya menaip (kadang-kadang tergelincir masuk ke celah-celah key!) saya mula merasakan yang saya sekarang sudah 'pandai menaip'.

Apabila temuduga dipanggil, keperluan menaip sudah tidak diwajibkan lagi.

Sekali lagi saya menaiki tangga Perpustakaan menuju ke pejabat Encik Beda Lim. Bersama-sama saya ialah Saudara M. Rajoo, rakan setugas yang juga telah berjaya dalam permohonan tempoh hari. *Alhamdulillah...*, saya telah diterima menjadi kerani di tempat dan suasana kerja yang sama: Perpustakaan Utama Universiti Malaya.

Saya ditempatkan di Bahagian Perolehan sementara Saudara M. Rajoo, di Pejabat Pustakawan. Di Bahagian Perolehan itu saya tidak diwajibkan menaip. Ada tiga orang jurutaip di situ. Hanya sesekali apabila ketiga-tiga jurutaip tidak ada, barulah saya menjamah mesin taip. Itupun cuma menaip memo ringkas atau borang pesanan-pesanan kecil. Lazimnya saya menggunakan pen atau pensel sahaja.

Tanpa sedar rupanya telah hampir sepuluh tahun saya bertugas di Bahagian Perolehan. Perpustakaan telah mengalami banyak perubahan. Beberapa bahagian atau unit baru telah diwujudkan, diperbesar atau dipindahkan. Antara yang diwujudkan ialah Bahagian Koleksi Kebangsaan dan Bahagian Audio. Dan yang dipindahkan atau diperbesar ialah Bahagian Majalah dan Koleksi Bertanda Merah.

Kakitangan dan pegawai-pegawainya juga sudah ramai yang bertukar tempat kerja, berpindah ke jabatan lain, berhenti kerana mengikut suami-suami mereka atau bersara (wajib maupun yang bersara awal). Sewaktu Encik Beda Lim akan bersara, akhbar Budiman telah meminta saya menulis sedikit kenang-kenangan mengenai beliau.

Tempat beliau sebagai Ketua Perpustakaan kemudiannya telah digantikan oleh Puan Khoo Siew Mun, Timbalan Ketua Pustakawan, yang sebelum ini adalah Pustakawan di Perpustakaan Fakulti Ekonomi & Pentadbiran Universiti Malaya.

Sementara di Perpustakaan berlaku perubahan-perubahan yang menggalakkan. Kami di SEKAUM mengalami suatu kejutan yang memilukan.

Kami ketika itu sedang giat berlatih untuk suatu pementasan drama di bawah pimpinan Salim Bachik (kami memanggilnya Abang Salim). Abang Salim begitu bersungguh-sungguh mengajar kami teknik-teknik berlakon, cara-cara menampilkan diri di pentas, bagaimana menghidup dan menjiwai watak-watak, tentang memek-memek muka dan banyak lagi 'rahsia' kesenimanannya. Saya yang tidak berlakon atau menyanyi telah dibimbingnya dalam teknik-teknik pengarah.

Suatu petang, sesudah suatu sesi latihan yang amat menghiburkan, Abang Salim berpesan kepada saya: Yahaya, kalau Abang tak datang petang esok, teruskanlah latihan. Ingat..., setting dan gerak pelakon-pelakon jangan kaku. Jangan kelamkabut macam hari itu.

Abang nak ke mana? Saya bertanya. Dia diam seketika. Entahlah, katanya sambil memandang tepat ke muka saya. Mungkin ada shooting di luar KL, tambahna.

Esok paginya, sewaktu sedang mencari sesuatu bahan mengenai penerbitan di rak-rak rujukan, saya menerima satu panggilan. Saudara Wazir, teman setugas yang juga pelakon utama drama kami, menalipon. Abang Yahaya, suaranya kedengaran gugup dan sayup. Abang Salim..., Ia terhenti di situ agak lama. Meninggal...!

Saya terpegun. Tertegun. Lama. Talipon masih di tangan. Hello..., hello..., Abang Yahaya...! Suara itu memanggil-manggil! Lidah saya kelu. Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi raajiuun ...!

Usaha kami yang seakan-akan akan terhenti di tengah jalan akibat dilanda kepiluan itu, tak sanggup kami bengkalaiakan begitu sahaja. Dengan usaha gigih yang tak mengenal lelah atau kalah dari Encik Arif dan rakan-rakan, kami telah mendapat khidmat Encik Aziz Singah, rakan seperjuangan Allahyarham yang juga seniman-dramatis terkenal tanahair, untuk meneruskan kegiatan kami dalam SEKAUM.

Kami terus berlatih dengan lebih giat lagi. Di hati kami tersemat hasrat yang tinggi bahawa drama itu akan kami pentaskan juga sebagai suatu sumbangsih dari kami buat Allahyarham Abang Salim yang telah banyak mengorbankan masa, tenaga dan ilmunya, mencungkil, melatih dan menggilap bakat-bakat terpendam kami.

Dan pada bulan Mac 1997, bertempat di Panggung Eksperimen Universiti Malaya drama berjudul 'Sangkar Madu' berserta serangkaian puisi, nyanyian dan tarian telah kami persembahkan di hadapan penonton-peminat dari dalam dan luar kampus.

Turut hadir di malam yang kami namai 'Malam Pemuda' (gabungan dari nama: tarian musik dan drama) adalah Yang Mulia Profesor DiRaja Ungku Abdul Aziz, Naib Canselor Universiti Malaya berserta Timbalannya Profesor Datuk Dr. Mokhzani, artis dan karyawan dari RTM, Kementerian Kebudayaan dan beberapa orang tenaga pengajar dari Universiti Malaya itu sendiri.

Batu Allahyarham beserta anak lelakinya (kini pelakon drama TV) telah kami undang khas di malam yang amat bermakna buat SEKAUM itu. Dan sebelum persembahan di mulai, seperti lazimnya, kami menghadiahkan Fatimah buat Allahyarham 'abang' yang kami kasihi. Semoga Allah mencucuri rahmatNya ke atas roh Abang Salim.

Sebuah puisi saya yang berjudul *Elegi Buat Seorang Seniman* telah digubah oleh Tuan Syed Haron, seorang kakitangan di Bahagian Perjawatan Universiti Malaya, menjadi sebuah lagu puisi. Antara lain, Saudara Wazir dengan suara pilu merintihnya melirikkan:

*Abang,
masih kudengar parau suaramu
menusuk panas kurasakan
membekas bakar dinubari...*

Yang kemudian disambut oleh Saudara Jamil

*Namun kini di mana lagi
suara itu menggema
Panggung Eksperimen dan DTC
kerana abang terburu pergi
meninggal sepi kami di sini...*

Dari beberapa sudut dan penjuru Panggung Eksperimen yang sedikit digelapkan itu, terdengar suara esakan penonton. Hati saya merasa amat terhiris. Allahyarham Encik Salim Bachik meninggal dunia akibat diserang lemah jantung.

Saya membuang pandang ke arah pentas. Saya lihat ramai yang menundukkan kepala. Saya semakin terharu. Perlahan-lahan saya heret kaki saya ke satu sudut yang gelap dan lengang. Diam-diam airmata saya mengalir laju.

Begitulah perubahan telah berlaku dan akan terus berlaku.

Suatu pagi Encik Soong Mun Wai, Ketua Bahagian Perolehan, memanggil kesemua kerani-keraninya berkumpul di pejabatnya. Ada hal penting hendak disampaikan, seorang rakan memberitahu. Saya cuba bertanya apakah yang pentingnya itu, tetapi rakan tadi cuma mengangkat bahu.

Kami berdiri di sekeliling meja Encik Soong kerana kerusi cuma ada sebuah sahaja di situ. Encik Soong berdiri sama dan melihat sekeliling. Is Mariah on leave, today? Tanyanya kepada seorang kerani yang lebih senior. Kerani itu mengiakkannya. OK, kata Encik Soong dan meneruskan agenda yang hendak disampaikannya.

Datin Shaika Zakaria, Timbalan Ketua Pustakawan yang juga mengetuai Perpustakaan Undang-Undang, diperlukan berada di Perpustakaan Utama. Terang Encik Soong. Bersamanya pindah ke mari nanti akan ikut serta Setiausahaanya yang kini dipinjamkan di sana untuk melakukan tugas-tugas kerani. Kami, Ketua-Ketua Bahagian semua, telah bersetuju meminta seorang kerani dari bahagian ini untuk ditukarkan ke Perpustakaan Undang-Undang, mulai bulan hadapan. Ia diam seketika, kemudian menyambung lagi. Saya akan berterima kasih jika kamu semua dapat berunding sesama rakan, siapa yang mahu ditukarkan ke sana. Ia berhenti lagi dan melihat sekeliling.

Kami saling berpandangan satu sama lain. Nampaknya tiada siapa bersedia untuk ditukarkan. Jika semua yang ada itu tidak mahu ke sana, fikir hati saya, Mariahlah agaknya yang akan kena tukar. Tapi Encik Soong tidak akan berbuat begitu. Ia tidak akan menunjuk siapa yang 'mesti' pergi. Dan untuk meletakkan pilihannya kepada orang yang tidak hadir, ia akan lebih tidak mahu melakukannya.

Beginilah, kata Encik Soong kemudian, kamu semua berpakatlah dahulu kemudian berilah keputusannya sebelum pukul empat petang nanti. Ia meletak fail yang dipegangnya sejak tadi sambil mengesut sedikit hendak melangkah keluar.

Dengan berani saya mengangkat tangan. I'll go Mr. Soong. Kata saya ringkas.

Encik Soong memandangi saya dengan semacam pandangan hairan. Ia seperti tidak percaya. Are you? Tanyanya seolah-olah minta kepastian. Saya cuma mengangguk. OK, katanya kemudian. So, in that case, the matter is settled. Tambahnya.

Mengapa awak beri jawapan secepat itu? Tegur seorang rakan sesudah kami semua keluar dari bilik pejabat Encik Soong. Saya menoleh ke belakang mencari yang bertanya. Apa

bezanya memberi jawapan sekarang dengan memberinya petang nanti? Tanya saya menyoal balik. Rakan itu tidak berkata apa-apa.

Hei... Yahaya, seorang rakan lain cuba memberikan satu gambaran. Kerani-kerani di sana semuanya perempuan, tau? Tak ada kerani lelaki! Saya diam sahaja. Takutkah lelaki pada perempuan?, bisik hati saya. Tak apalah..., kata saya merendah diri. Setidak-tidaknya saya akan dapat pengalaman baru. Saya pun belum pernah bertugas di Perpustakaan lain selain di Perpustakaan Utama ini. Dulupun saya pernah minta tukar ke Bahagian Koleksi Kebangsaan. Tapi tak dapat. Kemudian cuba minta ke Bahagian Majalah. Tak dapat juga! Jawab saya memanjang-lebar. Rakan itu diam sahaja. Dia seorang kerani perempuan tapi tidak pula menampakkan minatnya untuk ke sana.

Saya melaporkan diri di Perpustakaan Undang-Undang pada 1 April 1990. Aaah... hari ini April Fool Day!, bisik hati saya sewaktu menaiki tangga menuju ke tingkat atas untuk berjumpa Puan Rashidan Hakkam, Ketua Perpustakaan Undang-Undang. Ada apa-apa 'gurauan'kah agaknya akan berlaku pada diri saya hari ini? Bagaimana kalau misalnya Puan Rashidan mengatakan yang beliau tidak meminta seorang kerani untuk Perpustakaan? Haaa... ke mana saya akan pergi? Encik Soong sudahpun melepaskan saya dari Bahagiannya! Kata hati saya memikirkan yang bukan-bukan.



A view of the stacks at the Law Library

Gurauan 'April Fool' tidak berlaku ke atas diri saya. Puan Rashidan telah menerima kehadiran saya dengan baik dan ramah tamah. Malah beliau kelihatan ceria dan gembira. Begitulah juga pegawai dan rakan-rakan lain, baik yang bertugas di kaunter maupun yang di pejabat, menyalami saya dengan takzim. Rupaya ada dua tiga orang kerani dan pegawai di sini yang dulunya juga bertugas di Perpustakaan Utama! Saya tidak merasa asing di sini. Malah saya amat gembira.

A thorn among the roses! Seorang kerani genit mengusik saya.

Sepanjang ingatan saya, Puan Rashidan tidak pernah memarahi saya. Beliau, yang sesetengah rakan mengatakan garang, 'strict' dan entah apa-apa lagi tidak pernah mengasari atau membentak meskipun saya seringkali juga melakukan kesilapan dalam tugas-tugas saya. Beliau amat prihatin dan sentiasa mengambil berat dalam menjaga nama baik dan kesejahteraan kakitangannya. Ini berlaku pada suatu hari bilamana seorang pegawai dari Bahagian lain mengkritik saya kerana berlaku sedikit kekeliruan mengenai langganan (di Perpustakaan ini saya ditugaskan mengendalikan urusan langganan majalah undang-undang).

Puan Rashidan dengan segera menghubungi pegawai berkenaan dan meminta penjelasan mengenai apa yang telah berlaku. Terdahulu dari itu pegawai tersebut telah memanggil saya ke pejabatnya tanpa pengetahuan Puan Rashidan.

Dalam mempertahankan kedudukan saya mengenai kekeliruan itu, Puan Rashidan menghubungi pegawai berkenaan dan menegaskan peri pentingnya beliau dimaklumi terlebih dahulu sebelum memanggil atau berurusan dengan kakitangan jagaannya.

Dari peristiwa itu saya mendapat kesan bahawa seorang pegawai perempuan yang juga seorang ibu, lazimnya lebih penyabar, penyayang dan amat hati-hati dalam perkara-perkara yang menyentuh kewibawaannya. Ia tidak boleh diperlakukan sewenang-wenangnya oleh sesiapa pun. Dan ia juga tidak mau hal-hal yang mengusik perasaan halusny dibiarkan berlalu begitu sahaja, tanpa sebarang pembelaan.

Saya tidak lama bertugas di Perpustakaan Undang-Undang. Saya bersara dari perkhidmatan Universiti Malaya pada bulan Julai 1994. Dalam satu majlis sempena perpisahan saya itu, rakan-rakan di Perpustakaan Undang-Undang meminta saya memberi sedikit kata-kata nasihat untuk mereka.

Saya tidak pandai berucap apalagi memberi nasihat. Dengan rasa terharu, hiba dan banyak gemuruhnya, saya berdiri di hadapan Puan-Puan Pegawai, Cik-Cik dan Puan-Puan kerani dan rakan-rakan setugas yang lain dengan kepala tertunduk longlai. Kata-kata yang telah saya reka, saya susun sejak beberapa hari itu terpadam semuanya dari ingatan saya. Rasa-rasa macam hendak lari sembunyi diri lakunya saya waktu itu. Tapi ke mana hendak lari? Semua mata tertumpu ke arah saya. Garu kepala tak kena. Garu hidung tak kena. Garu telinga tak kena belaka.

Dengan Bismillah, As-salammu alaikum dan salam sejahtera, saya beranikan diri dan mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih, mohon maaf dan, aaah..., hilang lagi apa yang hendak saya katakan. Sebak di hati semakin menjadi-jadi. Saya meraba poket dan mengeluarkan sehelai kertas yang telah lusuh dan kumal. Pada kertas itu ada saya tuliskan sesuatu. Rupanya membaca lebih mudah dilakukan ketimbang berucap tanpa nota!

*Apabila kau ucap selamat jalan -
tahulah aku
inikah ujung kembara yang jauh
sekian kutiti kujelang sungguh
Ketika kau ucap selamat jalan
ketika kujengah lampau yang silam
tahulah aku:
gelanggang telah dikosongkan
perahu sudah ditambatkan
burung-burung pulang ke sarang
berpisahlah kita dari sekarang
Kawan
hari ini berkumpul kita
esok-esok berpisah jua
dengan rendah rasa dihati
terimalah ucapan:
selamatlah tuan selamat kalian
selamat menerus liku perjuangan*

Saya terpaku dan terkaku semula. Apa hendak diucapkan lagi? Saya melihat sekeliling. Rakan-rakan masih ternanti-nanti apa yang mau saya katakan seterusnya. Tiba-tiba terlintas diingatan saya pantun dan gurindam yang pernah saya baca di dalam buku *Ilmu Mengarang Melayu* buah tangan Almarhum Pendita Za'aba:

*Putik pauh delima batu
Anak semilang ditapak tangan
Meski jauh dinegeri satu
Hilang dimata dihati jangan
Tenang-tenang air di laut
Sampan kolek mudik ke tanjung
Hatikan terkenang mulut kan menyebut
Budi yang baik rasa nak junjung
Dan gurindam itu:
Buatlah baik ayohai rakan
Dalam laut kamu campakkan
Jika tidak dikenal ikan
Tuhanmu tahu iakah bukan*

S.C. Sundaraj
[1974 – 1990]

Here is what I have to say about my experience in the Main Library, University Malaya:-

“ ... from 1974 until my retirement in 1990 ... I have witnessed ... The collection of books reached 1 million. Index strips for Tamil books were replaced by catalogue cards. Catalogue entries for books in the English language were input to computer system. The establishment of the Music Library.

I feel proud in getting involved in these developments”

Andrew Lee Fook Phin
[1981 – 1995]

MEMORIES ...



*And Memories are made of these...
Of colleagues past and present who
have found joy in stimulating,
reinforcing and enhancing each other
gifts and talents
Of visions envisaged and objectives
formulated with the aim of SERVICE
to our clients
Of support and care when proposals
are rejected, programmes failed, hopes
falter
Of shared responsibilities, consensus
and commitment to rejuvenate the
spirit, lighten the load and brighten the
hopes
Of smiling Welcome! as a fellow
colleague than as an outsider on my visits*

*Of friendships and relationships
created and bonded, that when we
meet, the distance or fence isn't there
-like the old times rather than this
old timer
Of renewed visions and hope that we
are still this coterie of skilled
librarians who hold to this adage
that "Information is Power" – Its
potency lies not in what one has or
knows, but how one uses what one
knows.
My belief is to allow access to
information without fear or favour to
anyone who seeks it –
If the user can't depend on us, who can
And I wish UML ever continuing
Success in its mission.*

Judy Janet Jasmine Lee
[1982 – 1983]

I can remember working at the Main Library in 1982... in those days we were still lugging those huge Library of Congress Catalogues around in order to catalogue the books. Heaven help you if you should accidentally drop any of those huge volumes on your toes!

Library days for me, were, funnily enough, akin to a comedy of errors. It was fun though not always funny. They were sweet though not always a bed of roses. Happily, though, it was a time of making more good friends.



PERPUSTAKAAN

Perpustakaan tercinta ini
Pelabuhan kebudayaan peradaban zaman
Gedung akal laut bicara manusia
Mutiara pendeta tasik pujangga
Kota kebenaran penaung kebebasan ucapsuara
Dari ruang ini bersinar keagungan pemikiran
Menghayati teluk-liku zaman demi zaman
Tanpa prasangka apa tanpa batas benua
Kekal bersama angin yang mengusapi
Abadi bersama langit yang memayungi
Dikeramatkan untuk anda menghirup segala
Di Perpustakaan tercinta ini

UsmanAwang
(Januari 1970)

THE SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB

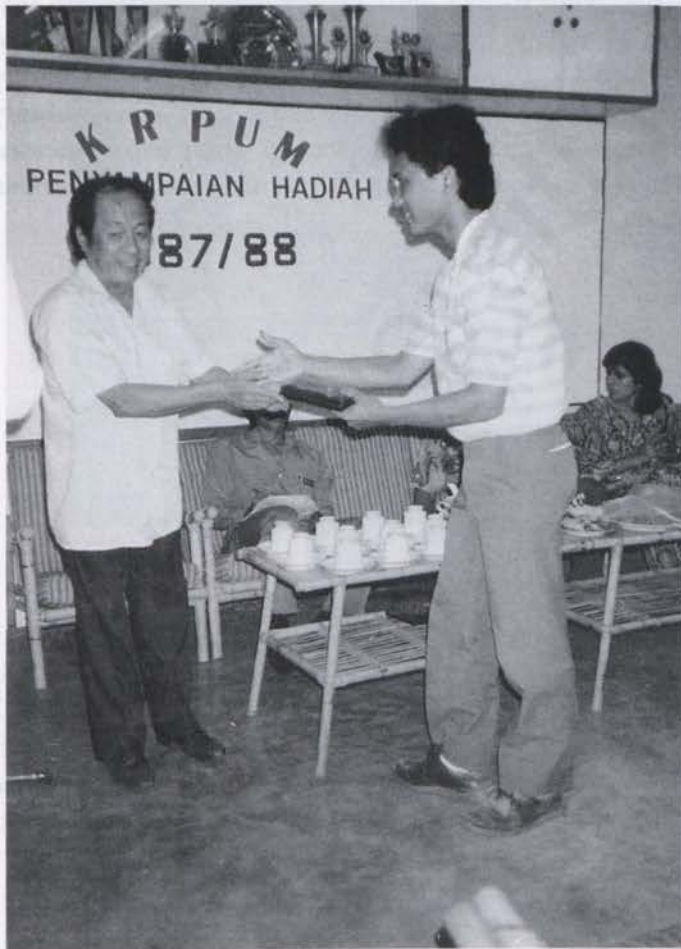
M. Rajoo
President

The need for a body to organize social activities and gatherings for the Library was felt especially so with the increase in the number of staff and the expansion of the Library. Ad-hoc committees which had previously successfully organized several social gatherings such as dances, dinners, big walks and outings was felt inadequate and a more permanent

committee was required. In 1970 the late Mr Eddie Yeoh Hooi Hong, Head of Reader Services' Division initiated the formation of the Library Club. This move was given the full support and blessings of the Chief Librarian Mr Beda Lim. The club was formally registered with the Registrar of Societies as the University of Malaya Library Recreation Club (KRPUM) on 20 April 1971 and Mr Yeoh the founding member was elected its first President. Membership quickly rose to eighty-three.

The Constitution of the Club details its main objectives. These are to organize social gatherings such as tea parties, farewells, dance, and annual dinners; to organize sports and

The late Mr Eddie Yeoh



tournaments within the departments and to select teams for the inter-departmental events; to organized excursions to places of historical and educational interest for members and their families.

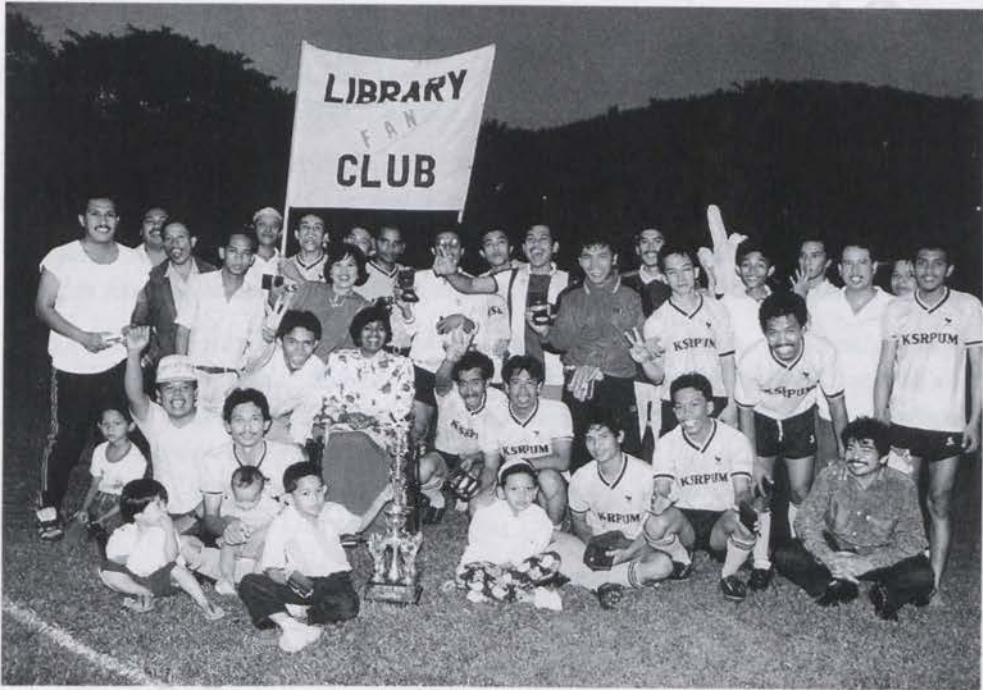
The annual membership charges varied and was dependent upon the individual's salary. It was a minimal amount. The intention was to enable as many staff as possible to become members. The first task of the newly formed society was to generate funds. The Club undertook various projects. One project worth mentioning was carried out in 1971. It was the production of a song book. The Club printed 2000 copies at the cost of RM 0.93 per book and sold it at RM 1.35 and succeeded in making a profit of RM 741.30 from the sale.

In 1972, the Club organized its first activity outside the campus. It was a trip to University Sains Malaysia (USM). This university was chosen because the Librarian Mr Edward Lim and Mr Lim Chee Hong, were former staff of our Library. The trip was from 1-4 April 1972 and it was a very successful one. On the last night of the trip, USM library gave us a dinner around the swimming pool. It was attended by all their library staff and the registrar of USM Mr N.A. Ogle. The following year USM library reciprocated and visited UM for friendly matches and sightseeing. Their trip coincided with one of our fund-raising activities the Easterball, held at Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka hall on 21 April 1973.



In Haadyai

In 1973, KRPUM obtained a license to run Tombola at Railway Club in Brickfields. Since the club was unable to raise the capital to run it was decided that the license be leased to "associate members". With the steady income of RM 60.00 per week the Club became financially stronger. Even the membership registration was reduced to RM 3.00 per year for all members. All trips and dinner functions were heavily financed by the Club. Excursions were made to places such as Cameron Highlands, Pangkor Island, Malacca, Telok Chempedak and Haadyai in Thailand in 1978. In addition, various games were organized annually. The Club also took active part in inter-faculty games. Our football team was the "Champs" and was feared by many faculty teams.



The Champs

In 1991 the Club's name was slightly amended to incorporate the word 'sports'. Hence the Club is currently known as 'University of Malaya Library Sports and Recreation Club'. With the strong support of the Library's management and the active members, the Executive Committee shall strive to meet the objectives of the Club to the satisfaction of all its members.



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MOMENTS TO CHERISH



*Tuanku Canselor
visited the Library on
4 September 1986*

*His Excellency
Mr John R Mallot,
the American
Ambassador,
presented 1205 titles
of books on American
Studies on
6 May 1997*





*The Prime Minister,
Dato' Sri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad, viewing the
exhibition of Alumni
writings at the Dewan
Tuanku Canselor
on 19 September 1997*



*The Vice-Chancellor,
Tan Sri Dato'
Dr Haji Abdullah
Sanusi's first official
visit to the Library
on 4 August 1994.*



*Library staff
venturing into IT.*



*The Library
choir's grand
debut in 1994*



Reaffirm loyalty



*Coming together is a beginning
Keeping together is progress
Working together is success*

Henry Ford

