



National Library Board
Singapore

Libraries for Life

New Library Service Directions

**Readers for Life,
Learning Communities,
Knowledgeable Nation**

Through our libraries,
we make knowledge come alive,
spark imagination and
create possibilities

Imagine what I saw when I read the papers this morning

“Indeed, what we write, especially our own personal experiences, can be documentation to the history of the country. Real history is written in people’s everyday lives.”

All Rights Reserved, New Straits Times



Any first-hand reports or postings on the Lahad Datu incident, for example, can be reflected upon years later. Pic by Zennor Ai Shafiq

Real history is written in people’s everyday lives

BORDERLESS KNOWLEDGE: What we write, especially our own personal experiences, can be documentation to the history of the country

I RECEIVED an email from Singapore’s National Library Board recently, inviting me to pledge my blog to the Singapore Memory Project (SMP). The project is part of the library’s efforts to collect memories that are already mentioned in existing online channels.

According to the email, the SMP is a national initiative to collect, preserve and provide access to Singapore’s knowledge materials. It aims to build a national collection of content in diverse formats (including print, audio and video), to preserve them in digital form, and make them available for discovery and research.

By pledging your blog to SMP, you are affirming that every memory matters. Whether your posts are an account of your daily life, or an expression of your thoughts, the SMP hopes to find a home for your memories so that it can help build towards an understanding of Singapore,” a farther said.

both citizens and non-citizens. Anyone who has visited Singapore, or has a memory about Singapore, can contribute.

I’ve had a few postings on Singapore, past memories of buying canned tinned from Woodlands and dresses from Robinson’s, as a guest of the Singapore government to their National Day celebrations in 2007, and on my many private visits as a tourist.

In the past, we kept memory books such as diaries and scrapbooks, which we started for our children and grandchildren. In these diaries, we penned not only our daily activities and appointments but also the goings-on around us and in the country in the many scrapbooks, we kept among others old photographs, dried flower petals and leaves, concert tickets and newspaper clippings. We kept these diaries and scrapbooks for years until the writ-

ings faded and the pages fell apart. Today, we have blogs or online journals, which provide the platform to express the owners’ personal thoughts and those of friends on issues that can be light or heavy, topical or otherwise, those that interest them and those they think would be of interest to many.

Some are kept private by the blog owners for bloggers, giving access to a select few, while others open it for public consumption. I know of some Malaysians living overseas who keep blogs to update their families and friends back home, besides writing letters (who does that anymore?) or sending emails, instant messaging and video chats.

Bloggers too would tag their friends to write on topical issues like the one in 2008 where I was asked to give my take on “muh-bah?” I had reflected on history and my own experience to write it.

Indeed, what we write, especially our own personal experiences, can be documentation to the history of the country. Real history is written in people’s everyday lives. I have for my blog written about my late paternal grandfather who was with the Royal Malaysian Police in the early 1900s, my late maternal grandmother’s experience during the Japanese occupation, my own mother’s experience of being at the Padang Pahlawan in Malacca in 1916 when Tunjia Abdul Rahman announced the country’s indepen-

dence and my own experience of participating in the Merdeka parade 50 years later. And we have had a lot of things happening around us these past few weeks that could serve as historical documentation.

Any first-hand reports and postings on the Lahad Datu incident for example can be reflected upon years later.

What about the reports and updates on the Government Transformation Programme and the Economic Transformation Programme announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak? These two reports, when put together, were 400-500 pages thick.

That’s certainly a lot of reading to do if you really want to keep track of what the government had been doing for the past one year. Bloggers may provide another insight to these programmes. And those who went to the 16th Petronas Grand Prix at Sepang on Sunday, the witness to Lewis Hamilton’s win at the circuit when he was the only driver to win his first race, can also help. I can’t even begin to think of the month task list through the project, that had been through the Singapore government in preserving history in whatever form it comes in. Can we not do the same? facebook.com/smp

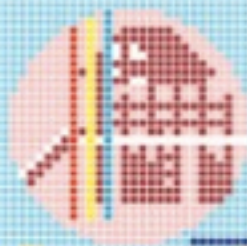


Fauziah Ahmad is NST associate editor (Business Times)



Where are Singapore's Old Playgrounds?

Here are the locations of some old playgrounds still standing today. Visit <http://g.co/maps/hcn8g> for more!



KAMPUNG PLAYGROUND

Inside Woodlands Garden. Designed to resemble the wooden huts that people in Singapore used to live in.



DRAGON PLAYGROUNDS

Along Ang Mo Kio Ave 3 and Toa Payoh Lorong 6. It was inspired by the Asian mythical creature.



ELEPHANT PLAYGROUND

Inside the NS Home Team Chalet at No. 125A Pasir Ris Road. The elephant trunk is a slide!



WATERMELON PLAYGROUNDS

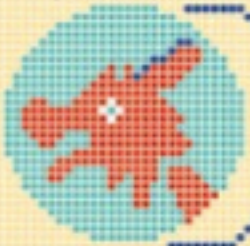
Along Pipit Road and behind Blk 85B, Tampines Street 83. Slices of watermelon are turned into slides, swings and see-saws.

CLOCK PLAYGROUND

Next to Blk 176, Boon Lay Avenue. The design introduced in 1988 is inspired by childhood themes.

PELICAN + RABBIT + TORTOISE PLAYGROUND

Behind Block 35 Vocational Drive. One of the first designs created locally by Mr Khor Ean Ghee in 1974.



METAL CAGE PLAYGROUND

End of Spooner Road. Next to flats that once housed staff working at the former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station nearby.



DOVES PLAYGROUND

In front of Blk 10 Dakota Crescent. One of five 'adventureland' playgrounds — including the Dragon and Metal Cage — introduced in 1979 to make play spaces more fun for children.

Moving Singaporeans

Cracking the Memory Code of Singapore



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End of Spooner Road. Next to flats that once housed staff working at the former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station nearby.

Look Inside

our beloved mosaic playground of yesteryear. a Singapore Memory eBook
by Justin Zhuang, Zakaria Zainal and Wee Ho Gai





Space for a Nation to Imagine

The designs of old playgrounds helped shape
a generation's memory of Singapore

COURTESY HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PLAYGROUND PROTOTYPE

DESIGN & RESEARCH SECTION
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

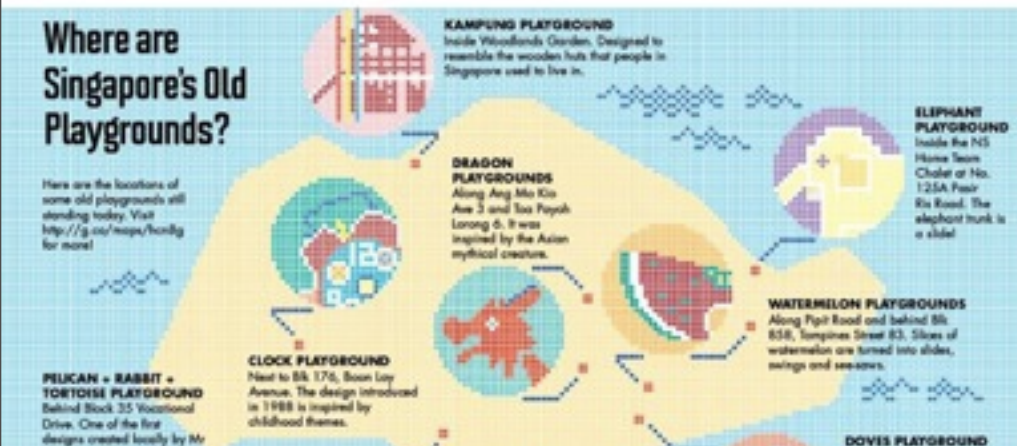
A young man with glasses, wearing a red t-shirt and plaid shorts, stands in the center of a park at dusk. He is surrounded by modern playground equipment, including a blue and white abstract structure, a green and white triangular structure, and several green cylindrical and curved pieces. The background is filled with large, leafy trees and soft, warm lighting from street lamps, creating a nostalgic atmosphere.

Lighting Up Memories

He re-discovers the past and finds inspiration for the future in his childhood playground



Our latest commissioned work from the Drawn From Memory series is a photo-essay exploration of our beloved mosaic playgrounds by Justin Zhuang, with photography by Zakaria Zainal and graphics by Wee Ho Gai. Also includes rare, never-seen-before blueprints of our favourite playgrounds! (Thanks to the Housing Development Board... See More



Jonathan Ang There is 1 at clementi central, near the market
57 minutes ago · Like · 1

Aeseh Junit Good work..
36 minutes ago · Like · 1

Jyeison Deng lets guess which 1 will be the final survivor then
34 minutes ago · Like · 1

Desmond Lim i think juriong west got dragon playground
18 minutes ago · Like

Cassandra Therese Seow tpy still got 2 dragon playgrounds! :
17 minutes ago · Like

Zoe Chu Got one more shaped like a boat near loyang!
13 minutes ago · Like



Virgules Po so nice!
3 hours ago · Like · 1



Weixiang Lim Pipit Road Watermelon has been torn down. E
3 hours ago · Like · 2



Sean Lim I thought there used to be a castle or a clock or s
3 hours ago · Like · 1



Duane Melius Really cool!
3 hours ago · Like · 1



irememberSG Hello fans, our commissioned works take a lo
sharing with your friends who might enjoy it! It will also hel
come in!
3 hours ago · Like · 4



Azyure D. Hikari The watermelon playground used to be a
the watermelon playground. Hint me and I have it uploaded
playground which is also no longer exist was at Boon Lay Av
Ave and Bishan. Clementi West Street One once have a hill-l
nicknamed "fortress". Clementi Central has another old play
sparrow playground.

Here an article/directional guide to access the Dragons of S
<https://www.facebook.com/notes/urban-explorers-of-sing>



Dragons of Singapore
Portrays of a dragon were separated and e
different continents....
By: Urban Explorers of Singapore

3 hours ago · Like · 1 · Remove Preview



Aaron Wende Wow
2 hours ago · Like · 1

More than 100,000 people reached, shared & liked more than 10000 times in Facebook And it is still counting...

a slice of the **8000** memories received in 24 hours at **#SGMemory** **#1 Trending Topic** with 8m impressions & reach of 0.5m visitors

“it’s such a wonderful feeling, to be **collectively memory keepers** #sgmemory”
bookjtinyisland

“reading #sgmemory while lying in bed under the covers on a rainy Sat is happiness. Been **smiling to myself at ‘em memories**”
miss ene

“Wonderful idea: collecting cultural memories in Singapore #sgmemory **great public history project** #twitterstorians”
adelinekoh

jiaxin @fishyjelly 20h
 .@iremembersg @clementchio 星期五周报 with song lyrics on the back cover!! #sgmemory
 ← In reply to irememberSG

Adeline Koh @adelinekoh 21h
 final #dayofDH post--convergence of #sgmemory and digital humanities bit.ly/GTS8K4 mentions of @viola_lasmana @ramblinglib

James Pomar @JamesPomar 21h
 @adelinekoh yea, I always see "maths" reading things and my tounge shrivels up at the idea of pronouncing that "ths." #sgmemory
 ← In reply to Adeline Koh

QQ @jriqq 21h
 My #PriSch was known as CHIJ Ponggol (yes, spelt with an 'o', not 'u') instead of CHIJ Our Lady of Nativity #sgmemory

Judith Huang @trueboat 22h
 lining up for hours and hours at kino to see neil gaiman #sgmemory

Ivan Chew @ramblinglib 22h
 Yes I was suckered. But it was so believable gmail.com/tap #AprilFools ##sgMemory

Adeline Koh @adelinekoh 22h
 @JamesPomar i missed this! yeah, singapore was a british colony; so we say "maths" rather than "math." #sgmemory
 ← In reply to James Pomar

Zacky Smurf @DomoZac 22h
 19001126868 #sgMemory RT @ngiamcaca: 为我点盏灯，让心照亮从你的手中我感觉希望 有你在心中更加温暖 你微笑是我灿烂的阳光 #sgMemory





The Singapore Memory Project

Announced
by Prime Minister
Lee Hsien Loong
National Day
Rally 2011

Previously: Facing the Bukit Ho Swee fire (left) in 1962, the biggest in Singapore's history, which gutted the entire area. Right, Singapore fans out in force supporting the Lions at the height of the Malaysia Cup fever in 1994. ST FILE PHOTOS

Escape from fire to a new life

FIRST-PERSON account of the Bukit Ho Swee fire, by Mr James Seah, 62, a retired financial supervisor.

"There was dark billowing smoke in the sky, the smell was toxic. People were shouting 'Fire, Fire', screaming, shouting..."

My mother and I ran as fast as we could to flee from the burning houses. There was a stampede. The older and weaker people were carried by younger and stronger ones. I noticed my neighbour's daughter... knelt down on the ground to pray, stating at a defeated cry of woe.

(They ended up at Kim Seng School)

The school compound was crowded with thousands of fire victims, police, military personnel, doctors, nurses and helpers. Tents were erected for registration of fire victims, making attempts to make on the spot and supply needs.

There was also milk powder for babies.

My family visited the fire site and saw the shocking scene of the aftermath of the fire the following day.

Within the week, my family was allocated an HDB

two-room flat at Margaret Drive."



Stories to weave tapestry of a nation

By ANDREA ONG

AN INITIATIVE to capture Singaporeans' recollections of their country has gathered more than 32,000 stories to the short span of a month.

Called *memoriesSG*, the initiative is part of the Singapore Memory Project, which aims to collect five million memories by 2015, when the nation turns 50.

The project underscores the importance of capturing memories of ordinary people who lived through events that defined Singapore, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday.

Building a sense of ownership and belonging is crucial as the society grows more diverse, he said. While it would be a challenge, Singaporeans would have to "strengthen the lines that unite us and overcome the forces that pull us apart".

Said PM Lee: "We are Singaporeans together on a small island. We are anchored by our emotional links with family and friends and by our shared sense of our history and our common destiny."

Singapore did not "materialise out of nowhere", he said. "We came here somewhere, some time, there was a history to it. And it's crucial to remember where we came from and how we got here."

Retracing a joint life made when he launched Singapore HeritageFest last month, PM Lee said it was important to preserve what he called "human stories".

These are the stories of ordinary people who struggled to improve their lives and lived through defining moments such as World War II and the turbulent years of independence.

It is precisely such stories that the Singapore Memory Project hopes to capture, he added, stressing that the stories can

come from any person, organisation or institution which has experienced Singapore. "Together, all these individual stories will weave the tapestry of our nation," he said.

The project was launched by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts last year. *memoriesSG*, one part of the project, started last month. Singaporeans contributed stories and photos via Facebook and e-mail, among others.

AIMING TO BE FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY

"As we strengthen the sense of our common past, we must look ahead to create our shared future. We aim to be a fair and just society that nurtures and inspires the human spirit - a society that encourages people to go forth and do well for themselves and do good for their community. It depends on Singaporeans, believing that we have created something special and precious that we must protect and improve; striving not just for material success but for ideals and dreams, serving with passion and the heart, as well as the mind."

PM Lee

Together as one at Malaysia Cup

FIRST-PERSON account of the 1994 Malaysia Cup final between Singapore and Fuhong, by Muhammad Rayhan, 33, a schoolboy.

"I loved showing support to the Lions battling it out (in the) Malaysia Cup... I was 17 years old then, a mere schoolboy."

When we were walking towards the stadium before the match, there was this feeling of euphoria and anxiety... as everywhere we went, fans of both sides were in their host country's schools.

The feeling when the final whistle was blown was simply awesome, as if the whole of Singapore was there at Shah Alam.

The most memorable moment during the whole Malaysia Cup, to me, was not the players (but) the integrity of the fans, to come together as one, and only in this

competition do we see strangers become good friends and buddies become family. This is what I'm definitely hoping for in the next Malaysia Cup, and not so much of the win."



memoriesSG's Facebook page and blog were officially launched yesterday.

From the 32,000 stories collected so far, PM Lee selected two to share last night. Against the backdrop of video footage and slides of photos, he read out a first-hand account of the 1994 Bukit Ho Swee fire by retired finance supervisor James Seah, 62.

He also read out 10-year-old ethnographer Muhammad Rayhan's recollection of watching the thrilling showdown between Singapore and Fuhong in the 1994 Malaysia Cup final, which Singapore won 4-0.

Said PM Lee: "When we talk about history and national education and a sense of belonging, it's not just words and abstract concepts. It's really the stories of people, real people, what they lived through, what it meant for them."

Mr Rayhan's story also stirred feelings of national pride in last night's audience, who clapped fervently when PM Lee played a clip of the final goal of the 1994 away match. It was scored by local football legend Fandi Ahmad.

Mr Rayhan also said he looked forward to the camaraderie among fans when Singapore returns to the Malaysia Cup next year and "not so much of the win".

"But," Mr Lee quipped, "I hope the Lions win too."

Looking ahead, as Singapore strengthens its roots and sense of a common past, it must also work on creating a shared future, he said.

Fostering his vision of Singapore's future, PM Lee said it would have a "fair and just" society that nurtures and inspires the human spirit and encourages people to "go forth and do well for themselves and do good for their community".

A long-term national programme to enable the memory of our nation to be collected, organised, preserved, discovered, researched and co-created.

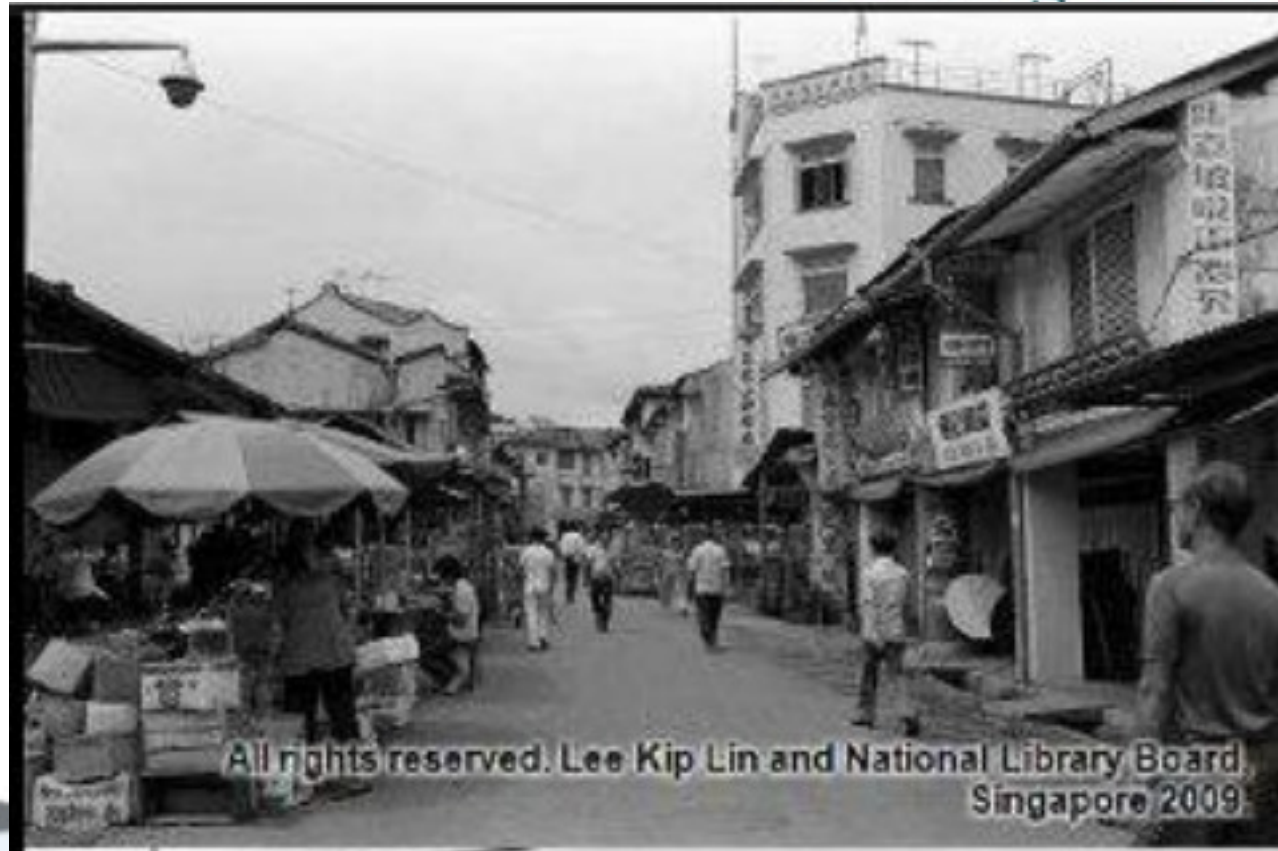
National Memory Showcase by 2015 S\$50m

Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Identity



Sense of a Nation

To Make Sense of and Curate the Memories for Learning and Discovery



All rights reserved. Lee Kip Lin and National Library Board Singapore 2009

Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Identity

ROOTS

TRACING
FAMILY HISTORIES

Marquee Exhibition at the National Library in Jul
with Okto TV series starting Wed 6 Mar



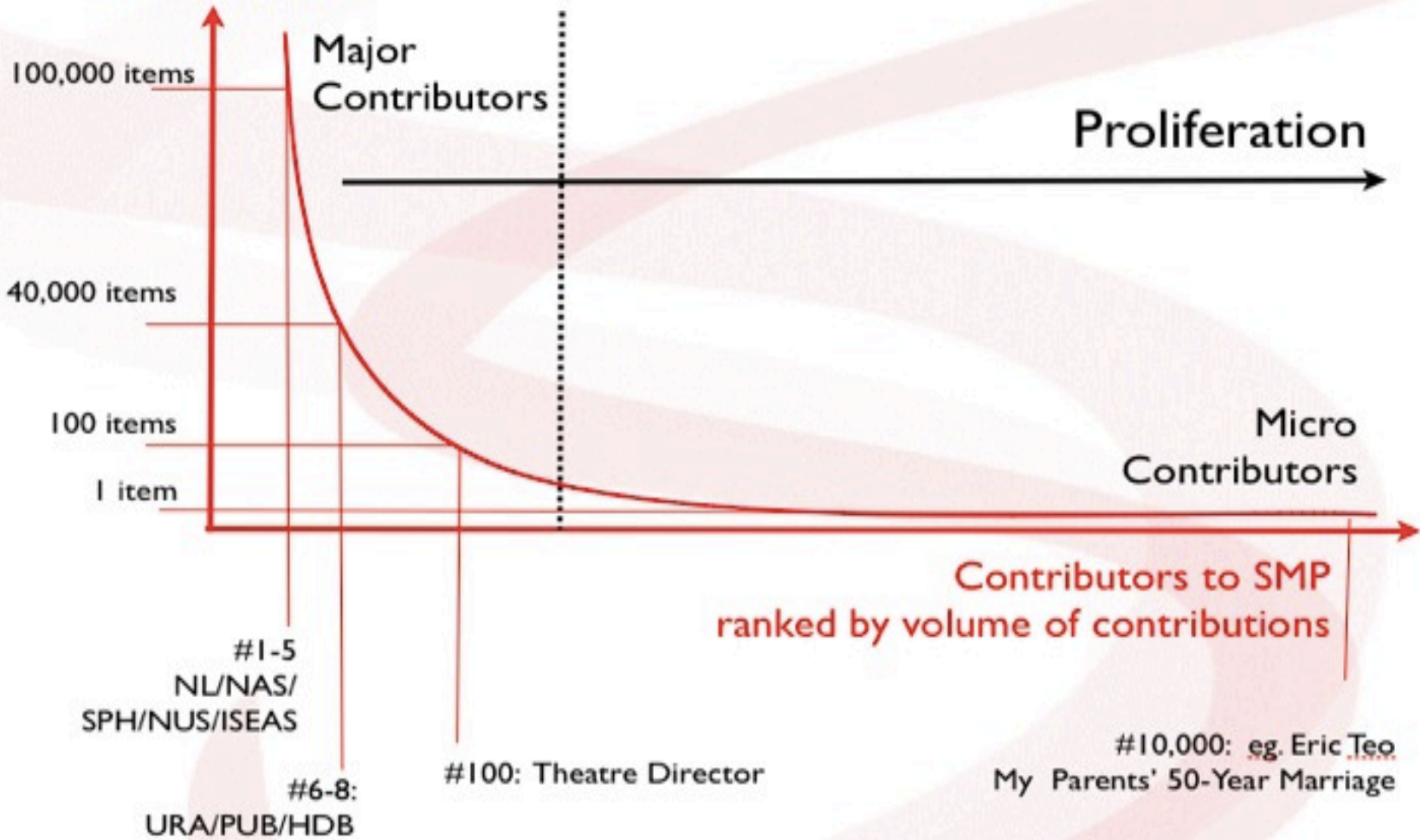
Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Identity

Your Home Videos, Our Collective Memory
Exhibition on NAS's AV materials



Cinema-on-wheels, c.1970s. For just a few cents, one could peep through the slots on the specially constructed mobile white box with a red roof to view films.

Volume of Contribution



Singapore Memory Assets

content in the hands of institutions, partners & individuals

stories, impressions & thoughts of individuals

lists, biblios, guides & collections based on SMP & more

new research, productions & creations based on SMP & more

internet content

non-internet digital content

physical content

hearts & minds content

re-organised content

new content

content search engines find

content is not accessible through internet

content that exists only in the hearts & minds

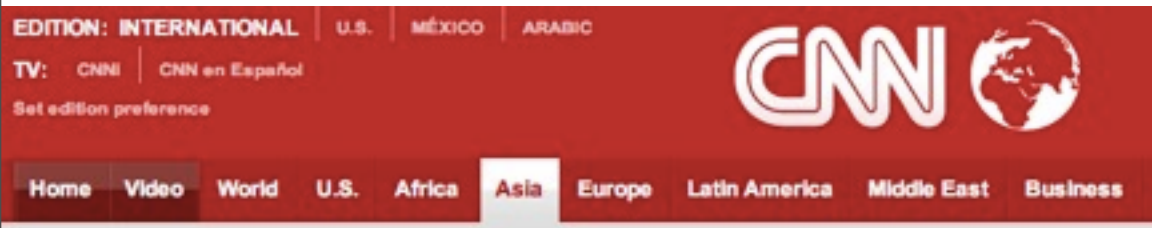
content that does not exist in any form

existing

new



Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Collection



Singapore aims to capture its history, 'messiness' and all

By David Gurien, CNN

September 24, 2012 -- Updated 0820 GMT (1620 HKT)



Singapore is calling on all its residents to share their memories as the Island nation approaches its 50th anniversary of independence. Thousands of residents have uploaded photos, videos, even e-books, documenting their life in the culturally rich city-state. So far, more than 400,000 memories have been collected.

Singapore Memory Project

HIDE CAPTION

Singapore Memory Project collects Singapore's Digital Content

Besides collecting personal memories, SMP is also collaborating with institutions in Singapore to collect and digitise content on Singapore.

Including content from SPH, MediaCorp, MOE, PA, ISEAS, NUS Library and NAS

Target of 750,000 digitised items by 2015

Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Collection



Building a National Collection on Singaporeana

National Archives Singapore came under the National Library Board on 1 Nov 2012



Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Collection

NewspaperSG is an online resource of current and historic Singapore and Malaya newspapers. You can search our digital archive of newspapers published between 1831-2009, or find information on over 200 newspaper titles in the National Library's microfilm collection.



singapore **i**nfopedia



Searching Across Singapore Content in NL and NAS

Leader of National Initiatives to build a National Collection

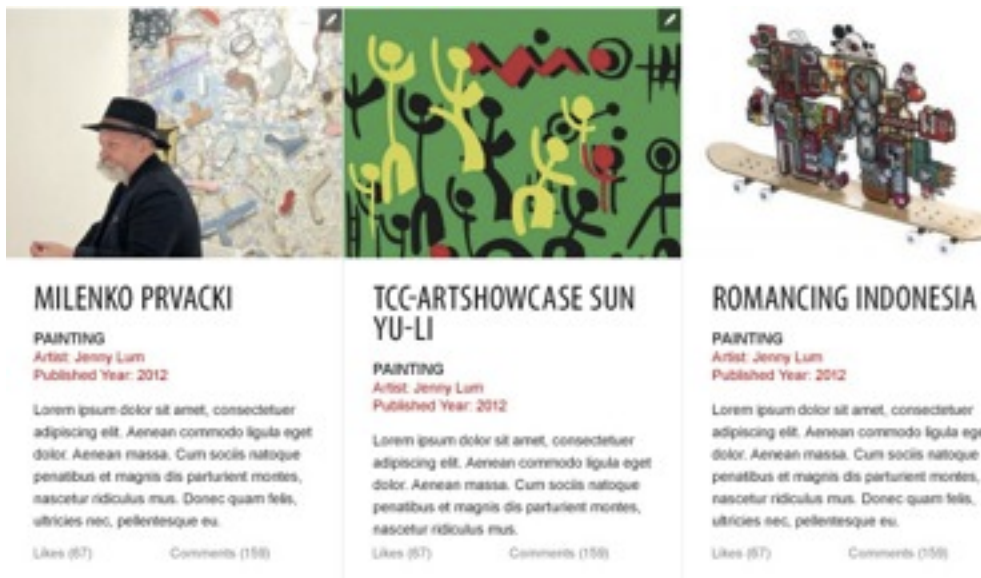


ArtsCultureSG

Building a National Content Base for Singapore's Arts and Culture

Beyond being an events portal, to collect content relating to Singapore's arts and artists so as to build a national collection for citizen researchers, practitioners and scholars.

Include pulling together primary and secondary sources.



Sources from National Online Repository of Arts as well as from NHB, NAS, NAC, PA and Arts Groups/Artists.

Leader of National Initiative to Develop Information Discernment

National Information Literacy Programme

Scaling up a Traditional Library Function and Value

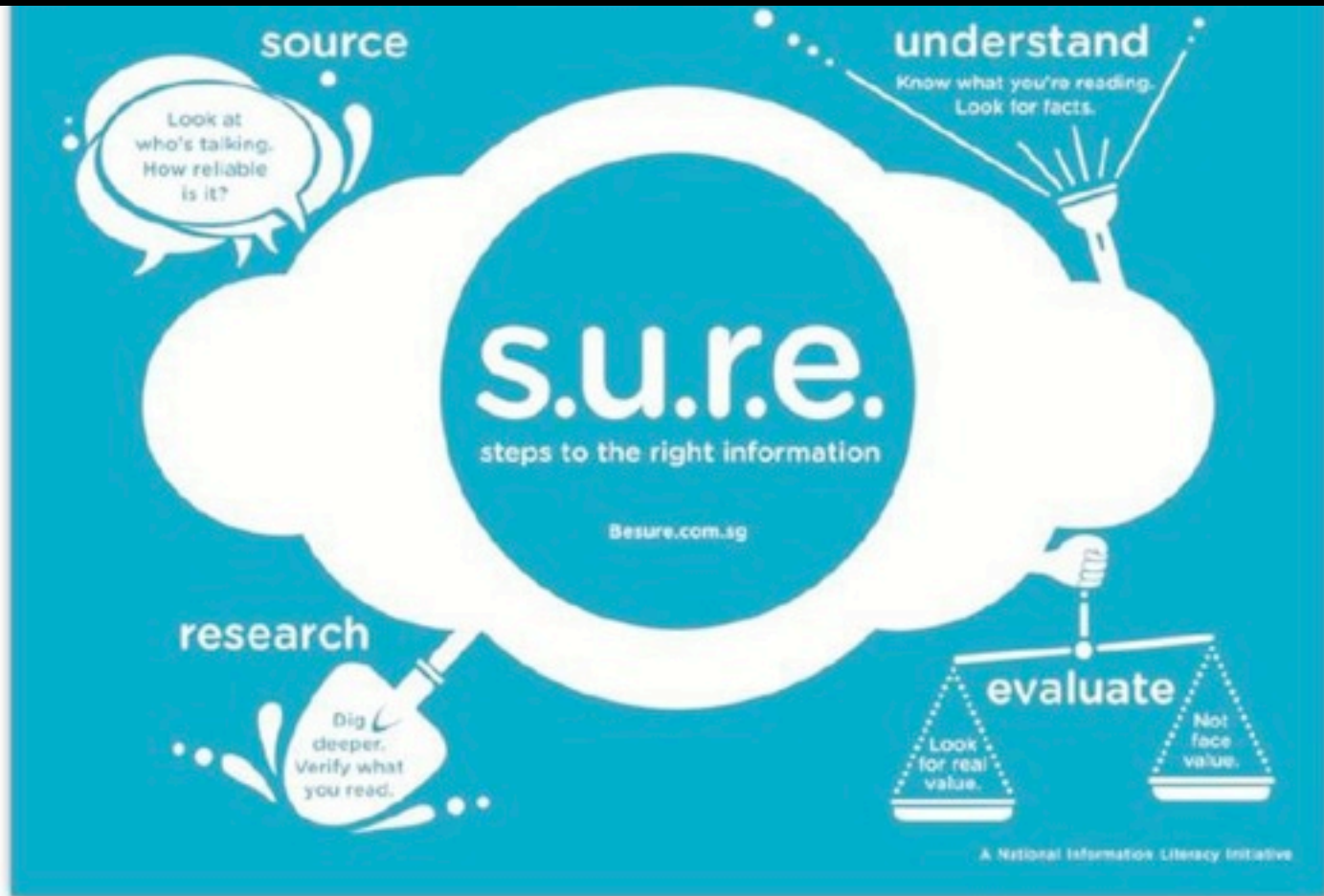
Facilitate the building of national consciousness in information responsibility by inculcating the basic values of library reference – checking sources, evaluating information and searching for quality content.



The screenshot shows the 'NLS Resource Guides' webpage for Information Literacy. The header features a red banner with the text 'NLS Resource Guides' and a collage of book covers including 'Singapore Artists', 'POWERING CITIES', 'The Integrated Resort', and '新加坡華文期刊 50年'. Below the banner, the breadcrumb trail reads 'National Library Singapore > Resource Guides > Information Literacy'. The main heading is 'Information Literacy' with tags for 'education, information literacy, schools'. A description states: 'A guide to resources on Information Literacy available at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library Board, Singapore'. It includes a last updated date of 'Sep 12, 2012', a URL, and options for 'Print Guide', 'RSS Updates', and 'SHARE'. A navigation menu at the bottom contains links for 'Introduction', 'What is Information Literacy?', 'Info Literacy Models, Standards & Frameworks', 'NLB Information Literacy Programmes', 'Events Calendar', 'Info Literacy Interest Groups & Conferences', 'Accessing the Resources', and 'For Students'.

Information Literacy Series is part of **National Library Resource Guides** – guides to quality content and information.

Leader of National Initiative to Develop Information Discernment



S.U.R.E Educational Poster

Launch of Public Awareness Info Literacy Campaign

Leader of National Initiative to Develop National Reading Habit



Leader of National Initiative to Develop National Reading Habit

We have 152 Primary & Secondary
Schools taking part in
READ@School

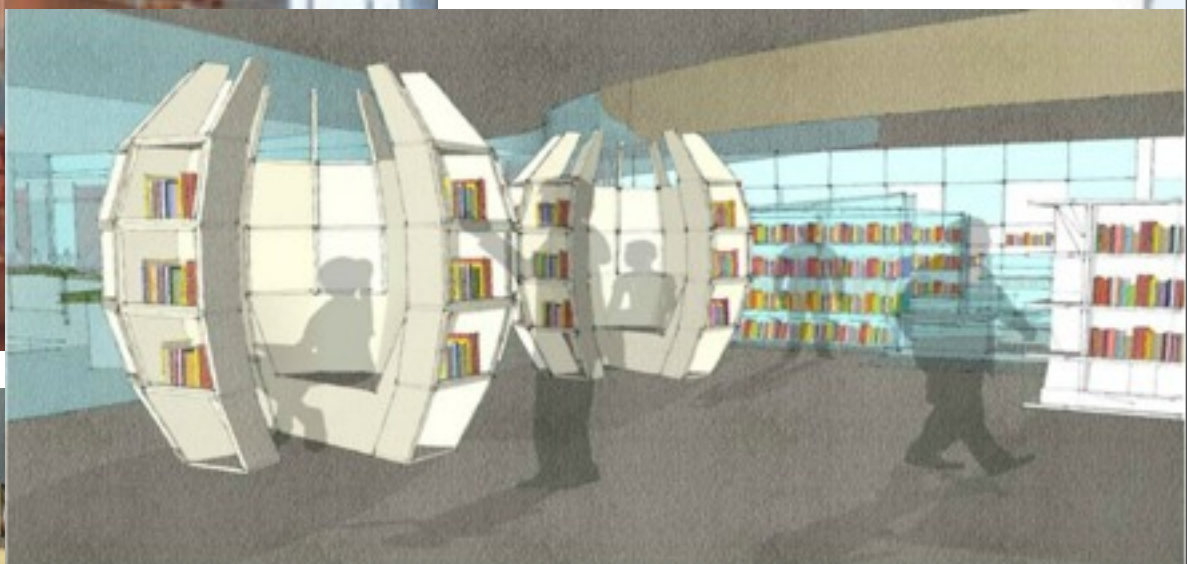
READ@School
Programmes that inspire reading



Leader of National Initiative to Develop National Reading Habit

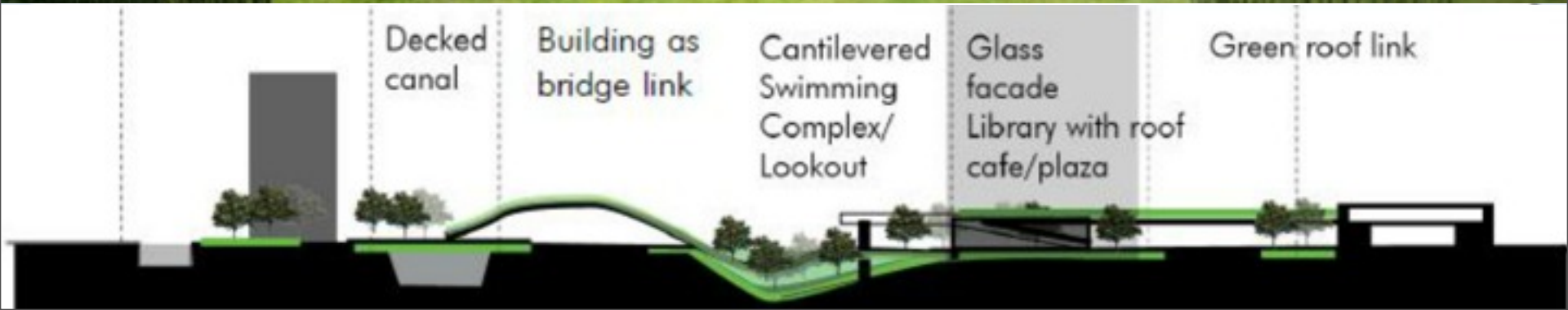


Imagining Library@Orchard



Leader of National Initiative to Develop National Reading Habit

Imagining Future Libraries – Library in the Park



Leader of National Initiative to Develop National Reading Habit

Green Children's Library At Central Public Library



Make Knowledge Come Alive
Spark Imagination
Create Possibilities



Thank you