

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY, DEWAN BAHASA AND PUSTAKA MINISTRY CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 2015

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Since there are no National Library in Negara Brunei Darussalam, The Language and Literature Bureau Library which is the largest Public Library in the state, has act as a national focal point in the field of librarianship at the national, regional and international level. The library's role is providing complete and comprehensive fields of knowledge and has become the main sources of information for the whole general public.

Libraries in Negara Brunei Darussalam in general are very fast developing institutions, even though the National Library is still non-existence to offer leadership, training and so on, public libraries are very well developed, while special libraries like the departmental libraries and also government libraries are also growing rapidly. One of the functions of the special library is to be a knowledge hub in their respective Departments of Ministries. Most of the special libraries are only open to their staff and members.

With the newly established higher institutions in the country like the University, Polytechnic and so on, the library service is seen more important and considered to be of the institutions that can provide information to users especially University student and academician within the institutions. There are 3 universities, 1 polytechnic and 1 institute in Brunei Darussalam. 2 Universities are under the Ministry of Education and the other one is under the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Other than public, school and governmental libraries, most mosques in the Brunei Darussalam are also equipped with library facilities. It is a must nowadays that every new mosque should be provided with a library. School libraries or educational resource centre in the primary and secondary schools are under the administration of Ministry of Education Brunei. There is a library in every school and there are about 154 school libraries in Brunei and usually administer by a librarian or teacher's librarian.

2. KEY FACT AND FIGURES

2.1 Staffs

The Language and Literature Bureau Library as of March 2015 has 147 staff of which 15 are professional staff and 132 are support staff.

2.2 Library Memberships

Library memberships are free and divided into 3 categories :-

- i. children (below 12 years old),
- ii. young people (12 to 21 years old)
- iii. adults (21 years old above).

Registered members up to December 2014 are 121,240

2.3 Visitors

Visitors to the LLB Library in four districts recorded by the Library statistic from January until December 2014 are 105,270 of which 36,143 are adults, 33,102 are young people and 36,025 are children.

2.4 Loan by LLB Library Members

The total number of materials loan by LLB Library users from January – December 2014 were 115,418

3. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

One of the roles of the Language and Literature Bureau Library is to develop and maintain the national collection in order to be accessible anytime and anywhere. Most of the digitization projects are ongoing projects and priority is given to Bruneiana resources which include conference papers and newspaper articles related to the Negara Brunei Darussalam.

3.1 Collections

Up to December 2014, the Library collection has reached 744,336 volumes of books and 3,320 of periodicals. While for non-book materials up to 4,423 titles such as CD-ROM, DVD-ROM including audio visual materials.

The Bruneiana collection is heavily used by users where it's collection has now reach up to 45,000 volumes comprises of books, journals, magazines, Annual Reports, government publication, etc.

3.2 Depository Collections

In 2014, the LLB Library acquire 281 of books through the application of ISBN in which every publisher who apply for the ISBN should give 2 books to the Language and Literature Bureau Library.

3.3 Gift and Exchange

Through gift and exchange the LLB Library receive 651 titles and 9,342 volumes from Brunei, 379 titles and 433 volumes from overseas and 872 titles and 3569 monograph.

3.4 American Shelf

American Shelf has been launched on 15th Januari 2015 at the Library Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. It aims to showcase and provide a collection of books, magazines and other publications in the United States.

The objective is to provide opportunities and facilities for the public to get materials and information about the United States and higher educational institutions in US.

Special lecture "Inspiring 21st Century Learners: The role of Libraries" was held and attended by school librarians and departments.

4. E-LIBRARY PROJECT

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam realises the importance of info-communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and services to accelerate socio-economic development in the country. The government has invested heavily in infrastructure development over the last 10 years. Homes in urban and rural areas are connected with technology infrastructure and can access basic technology and value added services. Much changes taking place in the world of education where access to information and getting educational resources is vital for learners development.

With the E-library, library and information center in Brunei Darussalam can provide, disseminate better information services in line with the development of Internet technology. The functions and roles of library are becoming more challenging and undergoing changes due to rapid global development. The traditional library management is also opting for electronic, digital, and computerized system. Libraries are one of the most dynamic and popular institution that took care of society's need for information and knowledge development.

The Language and Literature Bureau is a leading agency for this E-Library Project which involves 3 ministries and governmental libraries throughout the country. LLB Library

system will be available online when the system is fully implemented. The system will provides resource search facility Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), book borrowing station, (book-drop) facilities, internet browsing as well as library's collections management.

At the moment, catalog data, labeling RFID and digitization are being put into the system. Digitization projects are ongoing projects and priority is given to Bruneiana Collections.

5. LIBRARY SERVICES

5.1 Reading Corners at the 5 rural residential areas

As of 31st December 2014, there are 5 reading corners have been set up throughout the country at the Long houses and prayer hall with aims to give learning support and provide books to local communities as additional reading. The 5 Reading Corners are :-

- Rumah Panjang Mendaram Besar, Labi Ulu Belait
- Rumah Panjang Kampong Sibut, Temburong
- Rumah Panjang Kampong Amo, Temburong
- Rumah Panjang Lepong Baru Semabat, Temburong
- Balai Ibadat Dayang Hajah Aminah Kampong Long Mayan, Tutong

5.2 Mobile Library Services

Mobile Library Service has received favorable response from the primary schools as well as public and private religious schools. The aim of this was to foster a culture of reading among children and implement of learning in this country in line with the objectives of the National Education System (SPN21).

To date, there are 6 new Mobile Library Services in government primary schools, 4 of government religious schools, 1 of Al Islah (Rehabilitation Centre), 4 private schools. there are 35 stops in Brunei Muara District, , 9 stops in Tutong, 10 stops in Belait and 10 stop in Temburong.

6. PUBLICATION

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka is one of the largest publication in Brunei Darussalam. To date, its published 1,023 title of books since 1963, three (3) journal titles, four (4) magazine titles.

The Library of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka also publishes indexes and bibliography which is intended to facilitate and expedite the retrieval of information, whether in books, newspapers, magazines or any other materials available at the library. By this year, there will be a publication of Brunei Writers Bibliography, SEA Write Awards Bibliography, National Bibliography and Bruneiana Bibliography, Newspaper Index, Magazine Index, Sumber Media Bibliography, Library Events and Library Directories.

7. LIBRARY PROGRAMS

7.1 Reading Promotion Campaign Activities

In order to promote reading culture amongst Bruneian community, various activities are held by the library throughout the country. Especially during the school holiday where children and young people are keen to go to the library to join in library activities. Apart from reading activities, the library also introducing cultural elements such as traditional games, delicacies, handicraft, local dance and etc.

Children Activities include story telling competitions, colouring contest, reading contest, singing and dancing, indoor games, reading club, visits to Libraries, stamp collecting club, etc. While activities for young people include book discussion, talks, give us a clue, drama, workshop on traditional music and dance etc.

Within these two years, the mobile library has successfully conducting activities on reading and other activities to some schools. This initiative is aimed to instill the reading culture amongst Bruneian community especially to children and young people, teachers and school community. By doing such activity, childrens lending books increased as well as library membership.

The latest activity held by the library was Reading With the Patient in the hospital at The Pengiran Anak Isteri Hajah Mariam Hospital in Temburong.

7.2 Program Awal Literasi (Early Literacy Program)

Early literacy is a national program that encourages parents / guardians for infant familiarized herself with reading material from the earliest age. The program aims to encourage reading since the babies were born and to give them early exposure to reading material.

Pek Awal Literasi (set of books) contains reading materials such as books, poster, vinyl books, book for colouring and crayon are given to every parents. The parents will teach and read the book to their child.

Recently in 11th May 2015, 356 parents having been given the Pek Awal Literasi. The first Early Literacy recipients which was in 2014 has called up and interviewed early this year, where they were also given motivational talk about how to read to their children. During the talk session, most parents say that there are differences between the children whose expose with reading materials at earlier age. They also found that most of their children likes books.

7. READING CULTURE CARNIVAL

Various efforts have been made to empowering the reading culture in the country. The Reading Culture Carnival 2015 was launched on 26 February 2015 at Indoor Stadium, Sultan Hassanal Sports Complex. Various activities was held by the library with collaboration Ministry of Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs. The activities are BacaRiathon, Storytelling Session, Speed Reading Competition, Spelling Bee Competition, Storytelling Competition, Recital of Poem Competition, Jawi Reading Competition and etc.

8. RECOGNITION

8.1 The Best Library Awards 2014

The Language and Literature Bureau Library has organized the Best Library Award 2014 in three categories:-

- Ministries/Departmental Libraries
- Primary and Secondary Schools
- Library Rooms and Reading Corners in Mosques

8.2 DUTA MEMBACA (READING AMBASSADOR)

Duta Membaca is the first time held in an effort to pay tribute to individuals who are eager to read. This recognition is also aim of creating awareness among the society of how reading is important to support the success of an individuals. In 2015, there are 4 recipients received recognition as Duta Membaca (Reading Ambassador).

Duta Membaca (Reading Ambassadors) will also serve as a model example (role model) and set an example for people in the attitude of reading. Apart from that it is also intended as a motivation and encouragement to the community in Brunei Darussalam so diligently and reading. The ambassador also to

help promote reading program as well as encouraging the use of library materials and services.

9.UP-COMING PROJECTS

To enhancing and empowering reading culture in this country, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka has several projects which is aimed at to diversify the library services. The projects that are going to be implemented as below:

9.1 MUKIM BUKU

There will be one library building in Lumut area that can support reading activities for the villagers. The area has been identified as having large populations area and have a potential for promoting and enhancing reading activities.

CONCLUSION

It is the aims and objective of the Language and Literature Bureau Library to help the nation to realize the National Vision 2035 by enhancing reading activity in the country through empowering reading culture especially to children and young people. Having better library and services, it can provide awareness to the public about the importance of books, reading and role of libraries institution to create knowledgeable community.

The Library will always try to attract and encourage the general public to come and use library facilities and services. Language and Literature Bureau Library always make an effort at empowering reading culture by organizing a lot of activities throughout the year. Collaboration between the Ministries also can create a strategic partnership to ensure that reading culture could keep pace with educational needs and nation development.