

2009 CDNLAO COUNTRY REPORT

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD, SINGAPORE

1. General Overview

IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania Signing of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - National Library Board (NLB) Joint Collaboration Agreement, 12 Feb 2009

On 12 Feb 2009, IFLA and NLB renewed their joint collaboration agreement, which extends the award of the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania to NLB for another three years from Jan 2009 to Dec 2011. Ms Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General signed the MOU renewal with Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive NLB at the National Library Singapore. This joint collaboration agreement for the location of IFLA's Regional Office for Asia and Oceania was first signed for the period 1 Jan 2006 to Dec 2008.

IFLA Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) Core Activity Scholarships, Training Attachments and Projects

NLB, as the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, was appointed by IFLA to manage the IFLA ALP Scholarships. NLB hosted the IFLA ALP Training Attachment Programme 2007 for grant recipients, Ms Tan Somaly (Cambodia) and Mr Yadab Chandra Niraula (Nepal) from 1 Apr to 28 Apr 2008. The Regional Office also worked with the National Academic Library of Kazakhstan to host Mr Shehbaz Husain Naqvi from India, an ALP Training Attachment 2008 award recipient.

International Visitors to NLB

As at Jan 2009, NLB received a total of 167 visits for 2,753 international visitors for the period from Apr 2008 to Jan 2009.

General Trend of Visitorship and Membership

Public Libraries

A total of 76,856 new members signed up at the public libraries between April 2008 and January 2009. As at end January 2009, the total cumulative membership stood at 1.99 million.

The number of visitors to the public libraries for the period 1 April 2008 to Jan 2009 stands at 29.96 million.

2. New Information Products

"Liveable and Vibrant Cities - A Select Annotated Bibliography on Water and Sustainable Development"

A bibliography titled, "Liveable and Vibrant Cities – A Select annotated bibliography on water and sustainable development", was produced by the Social Science and

Science & Technology Collection groups for distribution to conference delegates of the World Cities Summit and International Water Week held from 23-25 June 2008. It contains resources on the themes of both conferences: "Liveable and Vibrant Cities" and "Sustainable Water Solutions".

“Powering Cities of the Future – A Select Annotated Bibliography on Energy Resources and Sustainability”

The Social Science and Science & Technology collection groups produced a bibliography titled, “Powering cities of the future – A Select annotated bibliography on energy resources and sustainability”, for distribution to conference delegates at the Singapore Energy Conference. The conference was organised by the Energy Market Authority (EMA) and Energy Studies Institute (ESI). The Singapore Energy Conference was the flagship event of the International Energy Week which gave ministers, policy makers, experts and representatives from various research institutes and energy industry players the opportunity to engage in dialogue on topics such as climate change policies, sustainable technology, energy efficiency and integrated energy solutions for cities.

3. New Information Services

Reference Local History Service

The Local History Service was launched on 11 April 2008 as part of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCRIL) Singapore Information and Research Service. It held in conjunction with a talk by Ms Margaret Caldicott on tracing the life story of her grandfather, Mr E. A. Brown. The Brown family donated a collection of photographs related to Singapore during the talk. A brochure, “Local History Service”, was published and distributed to promote the service.

Reference Point Enquiry Bank (RPE)

Launched on 18 July 2008, RPE is a web-based Questions & Answers system for the public to browse or search for previously answered queries. These entries are chosen from completed Q&As in the Reference Delivery Service database and reviewed by a team of subject editors before being published.

EnterpriseOne Business Information Service (EBIS)

The EnterpriseOne Business Information Service (EBIS) was launched on 2 Aug 2007. EBIS is open to open to all companies that operate in Singapore. It is a joint collaboration information service to the business community under the SPRING EnterpriseOne framework. The Business Information Service is jointly provided by Singapore Business Federation (SBF), IE Singapore, SPRING Singapore and NLB. It is aimed at helping entrepreneurs make informed business decisions through the use of various services provided. These include knowledge transfer seminars on industries/countries; information consulting; provision of monthly macroeconomic and industry updates and industry reports.

From its inception to Dec 2008, nearly 950 companies have been served by EBIS through these seminars, information consulting sessions and delivered reports. They

range from companies in the heavy industry sector to companies in the services and life sciences sectors. The benefits of EBIS have been attested to by a number of companies. For instance, as a result of a report provided by EBIS info-consultants, an IT company decided to expand its business in Malaysia. Similarly, a service industry company made a business decision based on information provided by EBIS.

Spread the word - eResources campaign

NLB launched an 8-week marketing campaign titled, “Spread the word”, from 10 November 2008 to 8 January 2009 to promote eResources available at NLB’s website (eresources.nlb.gov.sg). The eResources section features 800,000 eBooks, 157 eDatabases, 600 eMagazines, 700 eNewspapers in 37 languages, 25,000 audio books and 2,000 eComics. The campaign uses the allegory of a grapevine with ‘talking’ faces in the advertisement to represent the demographic of its intended users, giving it an almost organic marketing approach as each face reiterates the convenience and accessibility of this ready online source of information. It takes on the approach of existing members ‘spreading the word’, thus, spurring an organic multiplication of new users.

Bringing these eResources to the public, advertisements of the campaign were placed in a Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) train and featured in the free daily newspaper TODAY. It was also advertised at Asiaone.com.sg to reach out to netizens. Campaign posters along with Go Library, an internal monthly magazine for library’s programmes and exhibitions were distributed to all library branches at the start of the campaign.

All OPAC and multimedia stations in the NLB network of libraries were programmed to display the campaign poster as a screensaver to reinforce the campaign. To further encourage usership, a simple “Spread the word” contest with a total of S\$10,000 worth of prizes was launched together with the campaign. During this campaign, pageviews of the eResources on NLB’s website increased by 50%.

Reading promotion / Information literacy programs

Public Libraries

Just Share was launched together with the new public libraries website www.pl.sg in April 2008. This feature allows the public to share their photographs, which can be archived and become content that is searchable by the NLB’s Catalogue. A competition was launched to promote the portal and encourage participation, resulting in a marked increase of contributions. So far the most popular category is on “Our Garden City”.

Read! Singapore 08 was launched on 21 May 2008 for the third year, and for the first time, NLB partnered an airline, SilkAir, to organise a “Booklovers on Board” programme which saw 7,000 passengers requesting for short stories to read during their flights. This year saw the production of an inaugural audio book for hospitals and voluntary welfare homes. In all, 260 activities were organised and reached out to 27,000 Singaporeans through the 14 week period.

Audio Books were rolled out to all 9 standalone public libraries, in addition to the 3 regional libraries, on 1 November 2008 to cater to the increasingly mobile lifestyle of

our customers and to facilitate learning on the move. This collection will also serve the needs of an increasingly greying population.

Our *Friends of the Library* or volunteers supported more than 1,500 events across the public libraries during the year. This included support for major events, day-to-day operations such as user education and storytelling, and many other projects. A total of 11 schools chose to undertake their service learning projects with the public libraries and thus students were placed for longer periods at the libraries to assist in library operations.

Deliver Me was officially launched on 21 Jan 2009. This project aimed to work with our volunteers or Friends of the Library to deliver library items to the homes of the physically disabled and to encourage and facilitate an active citizenry by engaging community volunteers. Since the trial in June 2008, 53 beneficiaries from 3 non-profit associations have signed up for the service. 145 home visits were conducted with the help of 79 volunteers who assisted in the selection, delivery and return of the library materials. Taxi driver volunteers also assisted with the deliveries.

The *Mobile Library Bus known as Molly* was launched on 3 April 2008, and continues to reach out to the less privileged and those with special needs, providing them with better access to library books, services and programmes. *Molly* represented NLB in the recent Innovation Fiesta 2008 and was awarded the Most Popular Voted Innovation Team and also the Bronze award.

Read and Reap was launched on 30 May 2008, to promote reading, discussions and sharing of thoughts. Extracts chosen from books were put onto posters and distributed to schools, together with a toolkit containing activities and facilitation questions to encourage dialogue on the theme of the extract. The same posters were displayed at public libraries, and paper was made available for readers to pen their thoughts. A blog was also launched in June 2008 to provide more extracts and opportunities for discussion.

The *Junior Reading Ambassador* programme where primary school children between 9 and 12 years old were selected to be library ambassadors for promoting reading and libraries to other children continued, with a total of 67 new ambassadors appointed for 2008 after a three-day Reading Rock Camp in June 2008.

What I'd Like the World to Read is an online teen programme launched via the Y.O.! blog. In this programme, innovative contributions from teenagers comprised multimedia formats in audio, video and PowerPoint slides.

Acquisition, donation and exchange Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with International Libraries

NLB has continued to establish ties and explore new partnerships with overseas libraries. Both NLB and the National Library of Australia successfully renewed their MOU on 17 Sep 2008 in Singapore. In addition, NLB signed a new MOU with the Kuala Lumpur Library on 9 Oct 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. On 26 Feb 2009, NLB also renewed its MOU with the National Library of Indonesia in Singapore.

Book Donations to Overseas Libraries and Institutions

As part of NLB's support of overseas libraries and institutions, the following books were donated:

a) 500 books on Management, Public Health, Accountancy, Architecture, etc were selected on 28 Nov 2008 for the Universidade da Paz, a Timorese University upon Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' request;

b) 506 NLB English children's books were selected on 11 Dec 2008 to benefit

720 children in four different orphanages as requested by the National University of Singapore Students Union's Volunteer Action Committee for Myanmar Orphanages under "Project Pinnya Tazuang".

Donor Collections

The virtual Donors Gallery was launched on 2 August 2008 as part of Heritage Roadshow III. It includes an introduction and collection highlights of 46 donor collections that are exhibited in the Donors Gallery at Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 10. As of Jan 2009, NLB has received donations of 28,028 items (books, photos, etc) and 16,744 pages of manuscript, including significant collections as follows.

(i) Ang Kok Sai Collection - The family of Mr Ang Kok Sai, who died in June 2008 at the age of 78, donated a total of 4,379 items to NLB on 8 July. It was Mr Ang Kok Sai's wish during his last days to donate his collection to NLB. The collection, comprising 1,863 items of CDs/DVDs, 2,072 volumes of books and 444 items of serials, focus on Singapore and mainland- China films. The most important additions that fill the gaps in NLB's collection are 9 titles (140 volumes) of Singapore movie magazines published between the period of 1946 to 1956. The donation of the collection attracted quite a lot of interest and favourable comments from the media and the public.

(ii) Koh Seow Chuan Collection – Koh Seow Chuan donated over 13,000 items of writs, summons, petitions and other legal documents of Singapore residents dating from the late 1800s to mid 1900s. These documents, which also include materials in Arabic and Jawi, provide social insights into the lives of money-lenders, the judicial system and prominent personalities of early 20th century Singapore and is a rich and unique primary source of data.

MOU Signing with Donor

NLB signed an MOU with Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji on 6 Aug 2008. Ustaz Sonhadji is a prominent religious teacher and author of many publications. He is best known for his work of a Koran translation, entitled *Tafsir Al-Quran*. His book on praying is used by about 90% of Muslim in Singapore. The MOU covers the donation of about 1,170 items of monographs and serials and over 7,000 pages of manuscripts which are on loan.

Conversion of loan to donation

Mr Koh Seow Chuan converted the loan of his books and maps collection to donation on 16 Dec 2008. This comprises 70 antique maps on Asia, and about 411 items of monographs on Singapore and Southeast Asia, including several new titles that are an addition to LKCRL's rare book collection. His collection has been valued at S\$1.326 million.

Valuable Collections

(i) A valuation of Mr Koh Seow Chuan's collection of maps and monographs has been done by Antiques of the Orient. The collection is valued at S\$1.326 million.

(ii) Mr Koh Seow Chuan was nominated for the National Heritage Board Distinguished Patron of Heritage Awards. This award is for donors who have contributed above S\$2.0 million. The combined total of Mr Koh's donations for 2007 and 2008 was S\$2.046 million.

Rare Collections

Among the notable acquisitions for FY08:

(i) *Nieuwe kaart van het England Sumatra* (in Dutch). Published in 1725.

A copper-plate engraving showing a detailed map of the areas surrounding the Straits of Singapore, Sumatra and the southern part of the Malay Peninsula.

(ii) *Voyage de Siam des Peres Jesuites, envoyés par le Roy, aux Indes à la Chine. Avec leurs observations astronomiques, & leurs remarques de physique, de géographie, d'hydrographie, & d'histoire.* Published in Amsterdam by Pierre Mortier in 1688. Written by Guy Tachard, SJ, a French Jesuit priest (1651-1712).

Contains detailed descriptions of the geography, flora and fauna of Siam and Indonesia, including interesting accounts of the local customs.

(iii) *A manual of the Malay colloquial, such as is spoken by all nationalities in the colonies of the Straits Settlements and designed for domestic and business purposes*, by Lim Hiong Seng. Published in Singapore in 1887. 2 vols. These volumes provide a useful guide on Malay colloquialism for use by foreigners residing in the Straits Settlements.

(iv) *Singapore Town Club Guest Book, 1911* This book records comments and suggestions from members of the Singapore Town Club, which was the premier club in Singapore during the early 20th century. It includes the signatures and comments of prominent Singapore residents, such as R. O. Windstedt, E. A. Brown, William Makepeace and Gerald Mugliston.

Digital library National Library Web

On 15 April 2008, the National Library Web (NL Web) (www.nl.sg) was launched as part of the National Library Board's initiative to develop the TriWeb services. The TriWeb services is a family of three websites created to replace the current single access website (www.nlb.gov.sg). Each site is aimed at fulfilling different functions and addressing its own positioning and target audience. The three sites are: National Library Board Web (www.nlb.gov.sg), which is the corporate website that contains information on key NLB events, news and other useful resources about NLB; the Public Library Web (www.pl.sg), that features key services by the Public Libraries, such as Check Your Library Account etc.; and the NL Web, that features the statutory functions, heritage role and the services provided by the National Library Singapore. It also features Singapore resources in various microsites such as Singapore Infopedia,

Singapore National Album of Pictures (SNAP) and other Singapore-related sites such as Singapore digitised books and newspapers.

Digital Collection Type Quantity

E-books 709,626

E-Newspaper Full Image titles > 800

E-Comics 2,000

Music Tracks 130,000

Images/ Photos 180,000

Databases 167 (144 are accessible onsite; 116 are accessible remotely)

The Straits Times 1845-1982 (digitisation completed); 1983-2006 (digitisation in progress)

Launch of 2 NLB websites

Two new NLB websites were launched:

- National Library web (NL.sg)

- Public Library web (PL.sg)

Digital Legal Deposit Platform (DLDP)

DLDP was created to acknowledge publishers, organisations, donors and content developers (such as authors, music composers and self-publishers) that actively deposit and donate their materials with the National Library.

Digital Rights Management Tool

A Digital Rights Management Tool has been developed to manage digital rights for NLB's digital resources, comprising Policy Manager, Sealing mechanisms and a Management Console for the administration of user IDs and user groups.

Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS)

KOS is a project to develop new vocabularies and link these and NLB's legacy vocabularies to a base of concept terms for the description of NLB's digital resources. These comprise over 60,000 terms, spanning over 20 vocabularies for both NLB's corporate and library domain areas.

Content Publishing Management System (CPMS) Phase 1

An online content portal with personalisation & services aggregation was created. Phase 1 was completed with features and services such as web statistics, online content management, customisable web portal theme, member registration and login, RSS feeds portlets and integration of YouTube, Flickr & Amazon services.

4. Major events

The Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian Exhibition

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong officially launched the exhibition on 18 Jul 2008. Some areas of interests in the exhibition include the philosophy of the two men's strong beliefs in education and the change of their national and political identities. When the exhibition closed on 31 Dec 2008, NLB had received a total of 130,187 visitors. In conjunction with the programmes, four heritage trails tracing the footsteps of the two pioneers, three public talks and a competition for primary and secondary school students were organised.

7 winning entries from Primary and Secondary Schools that participated in the multimedia creation on the inspiration of students based on the Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian Exhibition were evaluated by a panel of judges from the Tan Kah Kee Foundation, Information Technical Division of MOE and NLB. The schools that were awarded the first prize presented their works during the International Conference on 29 November 2008.

A mobile exhibition commenced in February 2009 and will be rotated among various regional and community libraries. Positive feedback was received for both the exhibition and the book published by NLB in Jun 2008, "Selected Manuscripts, Speeches and Letters by Lee Kong Chian".

'Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian: Their Significance in the Making of Modern Singapore and Malaysia' International Conference

In conjunction with the exhibition launched on 18 Jul 2008, the Tan Kah Kee Foundation and NLB organised a two-day conference on 28 and 29 Nov 2008. The conference created a platform for knowledge exchange and discussions about Tan Kah Kee's and Lee Kong Chian's roles in the Making of Modern Singapore and Malaysia. This conference was conducted in both English and Mandarin. Eleven speakers were invited for this conference, which attracted 118 participants.

The Masuri S.N. (1927-2005) – Ros Kupuja Exhibition and Bibliography

The Masuri S.N. (1927-2005) – Ros Kupuja Exhibition was officially launched on 26 Jul 2008 by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs. A bibliography comprising all the works of the late poet, who had written more than 1,000 poems, was also published. This was held in conjunction with a seminar on the late laureate organised by the Malay Language Council and National Institute of Singapore held at NLB. About 200 guests and seminar participants, both local and from overseas, attended these events.

Seeking an Audience: Symposium on Singapore Literature in English

Jointly organised by NLB and Nanyang Technological University's Centre of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, this symposium was held in conjunction with the launch of "Singapore Literature in English: An Annotated Bibliography" compiled and edited by Prof Koh Tai Ann, in collaboration with NLB. The programme for the symposium covered a broad spectrum of topics beginning with local literature in the 1960s till present, the development and future of local literature in the school curriculum and finally, the views of publishers, media representatives and librarians in nurturing readers of Singapore Literature.

A total of 24 speakers presented at the 1-day symposium in 7 Nov 2008, from pioneering writers in the 1960s such as Dr Robert Yeo and Prof Lee Tzu Pheng to current writers and poets such as Cyril Wong and Suchen Christine Lim, as well as students from Raffles Girls' School and Nanyang Girls' High and academics from tertiary institutions. A total of 182 participants attended the Symposium and positive feedback was received, with many inquiring if there would be another symposium on Singapore Literature in the near future.

Heritage Roadshow III

Heritage Road Show III was held on 2 Aug 2008 through a collaboration with Yahoo! Flickr, Aljunied Town Council and the Photographic Society of Singapore and attracted about 2,000 visitors. A total of 1,095 items was collected at the Road Show, of which 150 were physical items and 945 were digital photographs. The collection can be viewed at http://www.flickr.com/groups/snaps_g_events/pool/show/. There was also a SMS Voting contest held to select the most popular photograph from the “43 Things That Reminds Me of Singapore” Photography Competition. This was also the first time that Heritage Trails was conducted at various estates such as Queenstown, Marine Parade and Geylang to showcase Singapore’s Heritage. NLB ventured into new channels to promote the event such as using newspapers inserts, lamp-post advertising, postcards, media collaboration and other channels to attract visitors.

Marshall of Singapore: The Extraordinary Life & Times of David Saul Marshall (1908 - 1995)

Organised by NLB and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, the exhibition was launched on 12 Dec 2008 at Level 10 of Lee Kong Chian Reference Library by the Minister of Law, Mr K. Shanmugam. The launch was attended by 150 distinguished guests such as Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Mrs David Marshall and His Excellency, Mr Ilan Ben-Dov, Embassy of Israel. A biography on David Marshall was also launched during the event. Media mention of the exhibition was covered in *The Straits Times*, *Lianhe Zaobao* and *Tamil Murasu*. Originally intended as a month-long exhibition, the exhibition was extended till 20 Feb 2009 as positive feedback from members of the public was received from Singapore and Boston, USA.

Exhibition: Impressions of Early Singapore

The Rare Materials Collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library forms part of the Singapore and Southeast Asia collections. It contains interesting and significant items relating to Singapore and Southeast Asia from as early as the 16th century. This exhibition highlights some of the many treasures found among the more than 2,000 titles in the rare book collection. Many of them were published and printed by Singapore’s earliest printing presses. Researching into this wealth of information would help the current and future generations to better appreciate their heritage and understand the present state of being. The exhibition was held at Level 10 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library from 7 Apr to 29 Jun 2008.

IFLA International Newspaper Conference 2008

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) International Newspaper Conference 2008 was held from 1–3 Apr at the National Library Singapore. Themed *Old Issues, News Issues: Impact of Digital Technology upon Contemporary and Historic Newspapers*, the conference saw 157 participants from more than 20 countries, with 20 research papers presented.

Be Inspired – Igniting the Special Olympics Spirit

National Geographic Channel partnered with DHL in this exclusive photography exhibition to celebrate the spirit of the Special Olympics. This exhibition featured black and white photos by renowned photographer, Jeff Hutchens, capturing unforgettable and inspiring moments in this international event, which honoured athletes for their courage and commitment in sports. Screening of Lensman Jeff Hutchens at the Library Plaza was overwhelming. The exhibition was held from 14 to 30 May 2008.

An Evening with Darren Heath, Award-winning Formula One Photographer

More than 130 people from all walks of life came to attend this much anticipated F1 talk, “An Evening with Darren Heath, the award-winning F1 Photographer”, on Tue, 23 Sep 2008 at The POD, National Library. Spectacularly a highly interactive session, the curious audience posed questions ranging from the technical efficacies of photographing fast cars to knowing what really goes on behind the scenes. This event was given wide media coverage, such as the Prime Time morning slot at Channel News Asia (23 Sep 2008), 938 LIVE radio interview (26 Sep 2008), features in *Photovideoi* (Sep 2008 issue), *Singapore GP* (Sep 2008) and *8 Days* magazine (16 Sep 2008), a spread in *The New Paper* (27 Sep 2008), featured on the Singapore Tourism Board’s website and magazines (Sept 2008) and in *Berita Harian* (23 Sep 2008).

Bear Fruit Writing Programme

As a lead up to the 'Symposium on Singapore Literature' on 7 Nov 2008, NLB organised the 'Bear Fruit Writing' workshop series. The workshop served as a platform for participants from all walks of life with an interest to write but did not have the resources nor the expertise to do so. Aimed at nurturing these people, the workshop was conducted over a series of four sessions on 6, 11 & 18 Sep and 2 October 2008 at the National Library Building. During the first session on 6 September, participants obtained insights to writing from novelist Tan Hwee Hwee, Kenny from BooksActually and a publisher from Ethos Books. There was also a trail related to local literary context, which catalysed their writing debut. The thought-provoking sessions included other mentors from diverse backgrounds. The short stories and poetry produced at the end of the series were testimonies of the rich experiences and invaluable guidance the participants received throughout the workshop. The 19 participants found the series enjoyable and beneficial, as they were guided in their writing and also had the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals.

Archifest 2008: Man + Environment

Organised by the Singapore Institute of Architects for the second year, Archifest 2008 explored the relationship between Man and the Environment. A collection of award-

winning works from various architectural competitions and internationally acclaimed urban designers were on display at the exhibition. The exhibition was launched on World Architecture Day, 6 Oct 2008. Screenings of the e2 design series, a set of documentaries narrated by Brad Pitt, was also held at the exhibition area, on 11, 12, 18 & 19 Oct 2008. The documentaries featured sustainable practices in design, energy, transport, water, food and urban development.

Singapore 1:1 Island by Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)

This exhibition by URA focused on the historical background of Singapore's architectural and urban design uniqueness over the last forty years. Three video stations were incorporated in the exhibition, providing the visitor with recorded interviews of the architects and designers. A compilation of the exhibited architecture was published and put on display. Interested individuals could contact URA for purchase of the book.

Energy: Portraits of Production and Consumption in Singapore

This photo exhibition by *Straits Times* photojournalist, Mr Alphonsus Chern, provided an insight to Singapore's energy landscape. From 6 to 12 Nov 2008, the public was treated to a vibrant visual display of towering vistas of industrial architecture and the insides of a massive gas turbine, places which are out-of-bounds to most people. This exhibition was organised by *The Straits Times* in collaboration with Singapore's Energy Market Authority for the inaugural International Energy Week, where industry players exchanged and catalysed ideas on energy options and strategies for the future.

"Behind the Street Names: Prominent People of Early Singapore. Some Perspectives from the Koh Seow Chuan Collection" Exhibition

The exhibition was launched on 25 Oct 2008. This is the 2nd installation of exhibitions from the Koh Seow Chuan collection. Research and curating works for the exhibition were done by Mr Chan Fook Weng (Casual Researcher) and Ms Azizah Sidek (Principal Librarian).

Manuscript Collections of Six Writers Exhibition

7 compliments were received on this exhibition held between 25 Oct – 30 Nov 2008. The manuscripts on exhibit were from the private collections of six writers, namely Liu Si, Hsing Chi Chung, Lin Qiong, Xie Ke, Lin Zhen and Chang Yao. They included not only the writers' manuscripts, but also those of other literary pioneers and renowned personalities such as Xing Ying, Liu Beian, Lin Can Tian Liang Yu Sheng Yu You Ren and Zhou Enlai. An exhibition guide was compiled and launched on 1 Nov 2008 to document and highlight interesting aspects of the exhibition.

Incorporation of Dublin Core Metadata Initiative Limited in Singapore

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative Limited was incorporated in Singapore on 23rd December 2008. National Library Board and National Library of Finland are the Founding Members of DCMi Limited. The current Affiliate Members are:

- National Library of New Zealand
- The National Library of Korea

- JISC - The Joint Information Systems Committee from UK

Launch of online Knowledge Community Platform – Bearfruit

The platform was launched on 14 Apr 08.

As of 30 Dec 08, the site has:

- Registered members: 106
- Overall Articles (News/Events/Recommendations): 94
- Forum Threads: 232 with 851 replies.

Launch of online Knowledge Community Platform – Law Librarians Community

The Beta version of the Law Librarians Community was launched on 11 Dec 08.

Training was provided for 22 law librarians.

As of 31 Dec 08, the site has:

- logins: 261
- page views: 5887
- registered members: 43
- discussion posted: 41
- shared files uploaded: 17
- announcements created: 2
- wiki pages created/edited: 17

Public Libraries 10,000 Fathers Reading! is an initiative to encourage fathers to read and bond with their children. This year, the programme held from 15 June to 30 August 2008, saw fathers participating in a variety of events and competitions, including storytelling sessions and book reviews by fathers.

BookCross@SG celebrated its first anniversary on 20 August 2008. Launched as a nationwide initiative in July 2007, the idea was to encourage a reading and sharing culture by providing quality books at designated hotspots for a person's "catch and release" through the book crossing concept. This year, ad-hoc donations of books have been accepted at the public libraries. Two roadshows were held at malls in conjunction with Green events. To date, there are over 900 new members and partnerships formed in Singapore, creating new hotspots or venues for exchange.

The *Amazing Wheelchair Challenge* was organised in December 2008 to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. A total of 40 teams with 80 participants took part and events included performances, exhibitions, storytelling, wheelchair ballroom dancing, and a variety of other outreach activities organised for the disadvantaged.

To My Grandma/ Grandpa Project aims to foster inter-generational bonding and serves as a platform to strengthen ties and enhance understanding and appreciation. From the

entries received for the contest in August 2008, 40 stories were shortlisted to be published as a series of 3 books for juniors, teenagers and adults. The books were launched on 17 Jan 2009 and are compilations of wisdom and thoughts on values such as respect, generosity, love for family, courage etc.

5. Report on the following three themes on ‘cooperation in knowledge-based society’ adopted in 16th CDNLAO

• Open Source Software

NLB is evaluating Open Source software for non-critical Digital Library services.

• Digital Preservation

NLB is in the process of implementing a digital preservation system, building towards a Preservation Services Center with initial services planned for other Singapore Government agencies.

• Web archiving

NLB has implemented the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) standards and tools for our web archiving effort. Under Web Archive Singapore (WAS), to date, a total of 18,000 web sites (of local domain .sg) deemed to be of national and historical significance have been archived. NLB's objective of archiving Singapore-related websites is to create a collection of websites reflecting various aspects of Singapore's life and heritage, and eventually to achieve one of our Ministry's desired outcome: to achieve a sense of community, national identity and rootedness among Singaporeans.

This will be achieved through the archiving of information that shapes the national identity. The web is increasingly used as a tool for social communication and interaction. Over time it forms a record of events that captures the milieu of a nation, which tracks how our national identity develops and evolves. Archiving this record will provide an invaluable source of documented heritage for Singapore's present and future generations. This understanding will create a sense of community and belonging, communal feelings commonly fostered by a good and strong archive.