

## **NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM COUNTRY REPORT CDNL-AO 2012**

**Name of Country: NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Name of Library: DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE BUREAU  
LIBRARY**

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### **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

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.

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.

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 build should be provided with a library with it.

## **2. LIBRARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT**

### **Library Act**

At present the Language and Literature Bureau has no Library Act, but The Language and Literature Bureau Library has drafting for the future of The National Library Act. The National Library will have its main tasks which are to collect, provide and preserve the publication including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Brunei and Bruneian people.

### **Legal Deposit Act**

Since The National Library does still not exist in Negara Brunei Darussalam, The Legal Deposit Act in Negara Brunei Darussalam which is also known as The Preservation of Book Act is under the controlled of The Museum Department. The Language and Literature Bureau Library is only the responsible agency for the collecting publications published in Brunei Darussalam through the application of The International Standard Book Number [ISBN] in which every publisher who apply for the ISBN should surrender 2 books to the Language and Literature Bureau Library.

## **3. KEY FACT AND FIGURES**

Up to April 2012 the total collection of the Library has reached 634,874 volumes of books and periodicals holding of 3,320 titles. 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.

The Language and Literature Bureau Library as of April 2012 has 168 staff of which 15 are professional staff and 143 are support staff.

Library memberships are free and divided into 3 categories children (below 12 years old), young people (12 to 21 years old) and adults (21 years old above). Registered members up to April 2012 are 110,366

Visitors to the library in four districts recorded by the Library statistic until April 2012 are 4,876,978. The total number of materials loan by users were 4,682,555

The Total operating budget for purchasing of books and reading materials for the Financial Year 2011-2012 were Brunei Ringgit \$ 470,000.00.

## **4. 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 resources that have newspaper articles values, in-house collection, malay manuscripts, conference and newspaper articles related to the Negara Brunei Darussalam.

## **5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library has a plan to cooperate with all the government and non government agencies to join the project of creating a central bibliography database as a Union Catalog for extending network of resource sharing amongst various agencies throughout the country.

## **6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS**

Through the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan of Negara Brunei Darussalam the sum of Brunei Dollars \$ 10,000.000.00 has been allocated for the E-Government Project for the implementation of E-Library system for the Language and Literature Bureau Library. The Language and Literature Bureau Library will be the leading agency for this E-Library Project which involves 21 ministries and governmental libraries throughout the country.

## **7. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **7.1 Setting up Reading Corners at the 5 rural residential areas**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> April 2012 a total of 5 reading corners have been set up throughout the country at the Long houses and prayer hall with the purpose to become as an agent restructuring that will provide learning and skill support to local communities in areas such as basic skills, family learning and education to the young. The 5 Reading Corners are :-

- i. Rumah Panjang Mendaram Besar Ulu Belait
- ii. Rumah Panjang Kampong Sibut
- iii. Rumah Panjang Kampong Amo
- iv. Rumah Panjang Lepong Baru Semabat
- v. Balai Ibadat Hajah Aminah Daerah Tutong

### **7.2 The Best Library Awards 2012**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library has organized the best library award 2010 which are divide into three categories:-

- i. Ministries/Departmental Libraries
- ii. Primary and Secondary Schools
- iii. Library rooms and Reading Corners in Mosques

The prize presentation has been held during the Reading Carnival 2012 by the Acting Minister of Culture Youth and Sports.

### **7.3 THE WALKATON AND AEROBICS EVENT WITH LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library and the Administration Committee from the Sengkurong Library Branch organised an aerobics and walkathon event as one of the programmes of the Reading Culture Festival 2012.

The guest of honour was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. Also participating were the permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries, directors, senior officers, officers and staff of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The event was also participated by the Penghulu of Mukim Sengkurong and heads of villages, principals and headmasters.

The event aimed to inform the establishment of the Language and Literature Bureau Library to members of the public especially residents of nearby areas. It also aimed to encourage residents, school students and government departments to participate in organising library activities, as well as to instill the culture of reading among library users. Aside from that, the event also served as a medium to foster closer ties between the library staff, students and nearby residents.

Prior to the walk, participants warmed up with a short 30 minute aerobic exercise. The event was to encourage residents, students and members of government departments to take up reading habit and making it a culture.

#### **7.4 READING PROMOTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

In order to promote or instill the reading habits amongst Bruneian community especially to children and young people, reading promotion campaign activities is also held as part of the library services to readers. The campaign stress on the important of reading as a way to gaining knowledge a carried out by the Language and Literature Bureau Libraries throughout the country. The Reading Promotion Programs held by the Library is divided into three main categories namely for children, young people and adult.

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

#### **7.5 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES**

Currently the Language and Literature Bureau Library has provided 4 Mobile Library services that offer services to 56 service points throughout the country. The priority is given to the schools in the rural area.

#### **7.6 BULK LOAN SYSTEMS**

The Language and Literature Bureau Library also provide the Bulk Loan System in which 100 – 200 books can be borrowed at one time with a loan period of one calendar month. This service is especially provided to the government and non government agencies, secondary and primary schools.

#### **7.7 THE FAMILY LOAN SYSTEM**

The Family Loan System is another services provide with the aims to promote reading habits amongst Bruneian community. This service is especially provided to the general public who intend to have family gathering ceremony in which through the ceremony they can read the books borrowed which will be place at a strategic corner. 100 – 200 books can be borrowed for the period of 1 week.