



Timor-Leste Country Report

01 January 2011 to 28 May 2012

3rd Meeting of the Executive Board

28 – 31 May 2012, Kuta, Bali – Indonesia

Introduction

As we know East Timor received its independence on May 20, 2002, and this year will celebrate 10 years of independence as a sovereign and democratic nation. Government plans to establish culturally significant institutions continue with the creation of a national library which will serve to safeguard the cultural heritage of the nation.

The national library is structurally integrated under State Secretary of Culture within the Education Ministry. Physically, the National Library is currently located in the National Directorate of Museums and Libraries as we await the building of dedicated library space. The National Directorate was established in 2011, led by a National Director, and staffed by Head of Department, Head of Library Section, six officers and one advisor. As there are very few qualified library staff in East Timor, personnel come from diverse backgrounds such as economics, sociology, medical and others. Even so, they have demonstrated a willingness to seek ongoing training in librarianship, both at national and international level, in order to improve our national capacity to successfully implement a national library program.

Library Program

The National Library has many programs to implement in East Timor, but we are currently concentrating on the following priorities:

- Negotiating with the relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Justice and Lands to secure land for the building of the future National Library of Timor-Leste.
- Collecting relevant materials such as books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers and magazines in four languages, Tetun, Portuguese, English and Indonesian for collection of future National Library of East Timor.
- Seeking materials internationally through purchases or donation that contain relevant information about Timor. The materials we receive should have content related to East Timor, as per our Collection Policy.
- Actively training staff in the field of librarianship, as well as Portuguese and English language training, because we know that many materials are written in Portuguese, English and Indonesian. [The official languages of East Timor are Portuguese and Tetun].
- Development of Koha open source software as the Library Management system [LMS] for the National Library and making available in Tetun language for all publically funded libraries in East Timor.

Services

- We are responsible to provide training for school libraries in thirteen districts, especially library management, treatment and organization of materials on shelves and how to create activities for children to promote reading habits.
- Produce manuals for libraries, serving as a reference point for those responsible for school library organisation.

- Treatment, classification, cataloging, and storage of materials, (the software used for cataloging books is Koha.).
- The National Library also receives students, researchers and members of the local community who want to consult the books in the library.

Collections of the National Library

At this time the National Library collection materials in four languages : Tetun, Portuguese, English and Indonesian. The table below shows the current collection numbers registered at the National Library.

TYPE OF LANGUAGES	TOTAL RESOURCES
Tetun language	199
Portuguese Language	803
English Language	155
Indonesian Language	64
TOTAL	1. 221

Libraries in East Timor

TYPE OF LABRARIES	TOTAL
National Library	1
Public Libraries	12
Special Libraries	34
School Libraries	30

20th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania

TYPE OF LABRARIES	TOTAL
University Libraries	7
TOTAL	83