SINGAPORE STORYTELLERS:

How we inspire discovery & engage the present using the past, in strengthening the collective Singapore experience

Ms Alicia Yeo
Director
National Library, Singapore

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Singapore

National Library, Singapore

The National Library, Singapore is a national reference library and the custodian of Singapore's documentary and published heritage.

In 2022,

1.39m visited the National Library

15.9m visited our websites

35.1m viewed our webpages

THE LIBRARY'S TWIN MISSION:

1 Build and preserve a National Collection

2 Provide a comprehensive Reference Collection to support the nation's reference and research needs

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COLLECTOR
Capturing the Singapore experience

KEEPER
Leading in Digital Preservation for the Nation

CONNECTOR
Enhancing discovery to derive new insights

STORYTELLERS
Inspire the appreciation & creation of Singapore stories

LAB·25 LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES BLUEPRINT 2025

The National Library Board of Singapore has embarked on various initiatives under its Library & Archives Blueprint (LAB 2025) to further its mandate as a memory & collecting institution.

We have been engaging and partnering with **the creative and research communities, the online community and the wider audience,** to encourage their contributions as *Singapore Storytellers.*
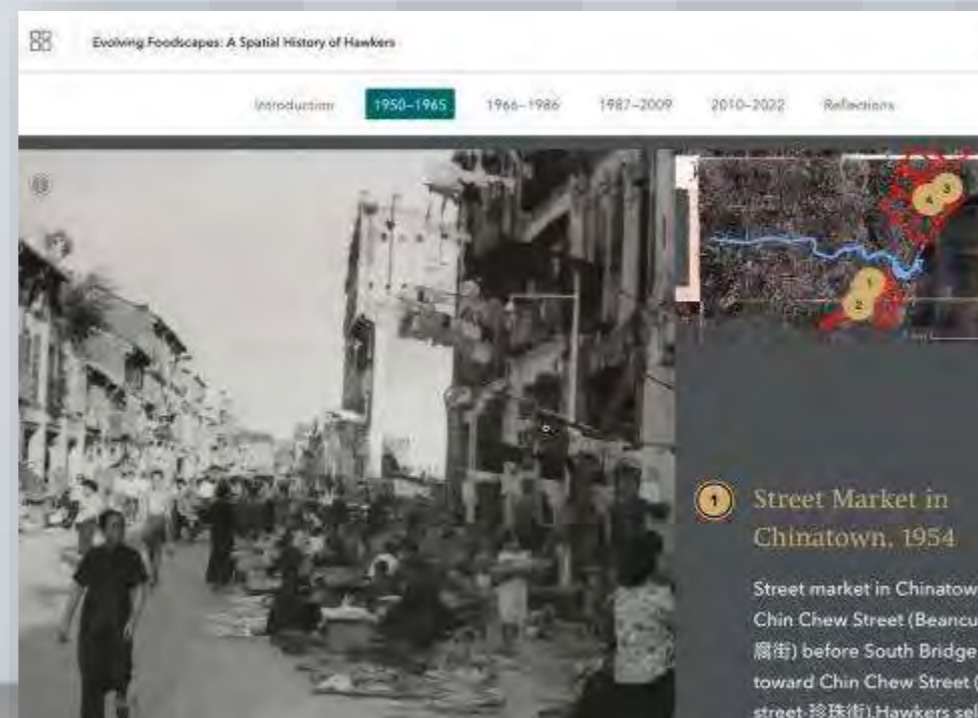
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Inspiring new works, new knowledge

through fellowships and creative residencies

Shape of Land exhibition
by Khairulddin Wahab

A Stubborn Bloom: Understanding
Singaporean Life Through Fashion
by Stephanie Jane Burt and
Daniela Monasterios Tan

Street Market in Chinatown, 1954

"Evolving Foodscapes: A Spatial History of Hawkers in Singapore"
by Bryan Wee, Amy DePierre and Brian Page

LEE KONG CHIAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Started in 2005, **83 fellows** to date
(Total applicants since 2014: 159)

GEORGE LYNDON HICKS FELLOW
Started in 2015, **12 fellows** to date
(Total applicants: 35)

DIGITAL FELLOWSHIP
Started in 2019, **9 fellows** to date
(Total applicants: 9)

CREATIVE RESIDENCY
Started in 2021, **11 residents** to date
(Total applicants: 84)

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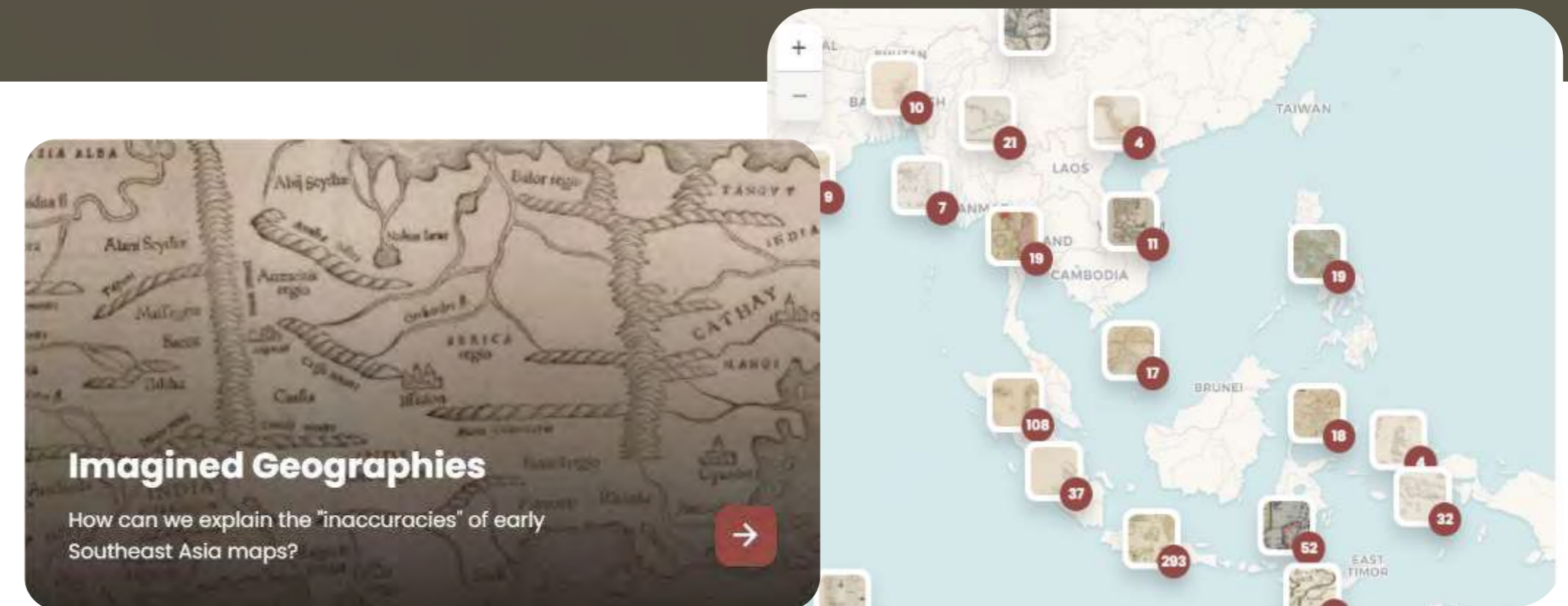
Eliciting wonder and discovery

through pre-1900 maps to facilitate research on early Singapore and Southeast Asia

https://historicalmaps.yale-nus.edu.sg
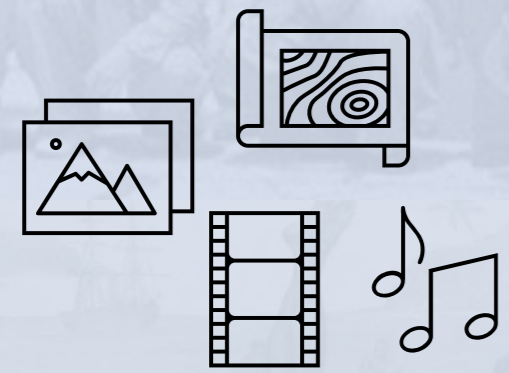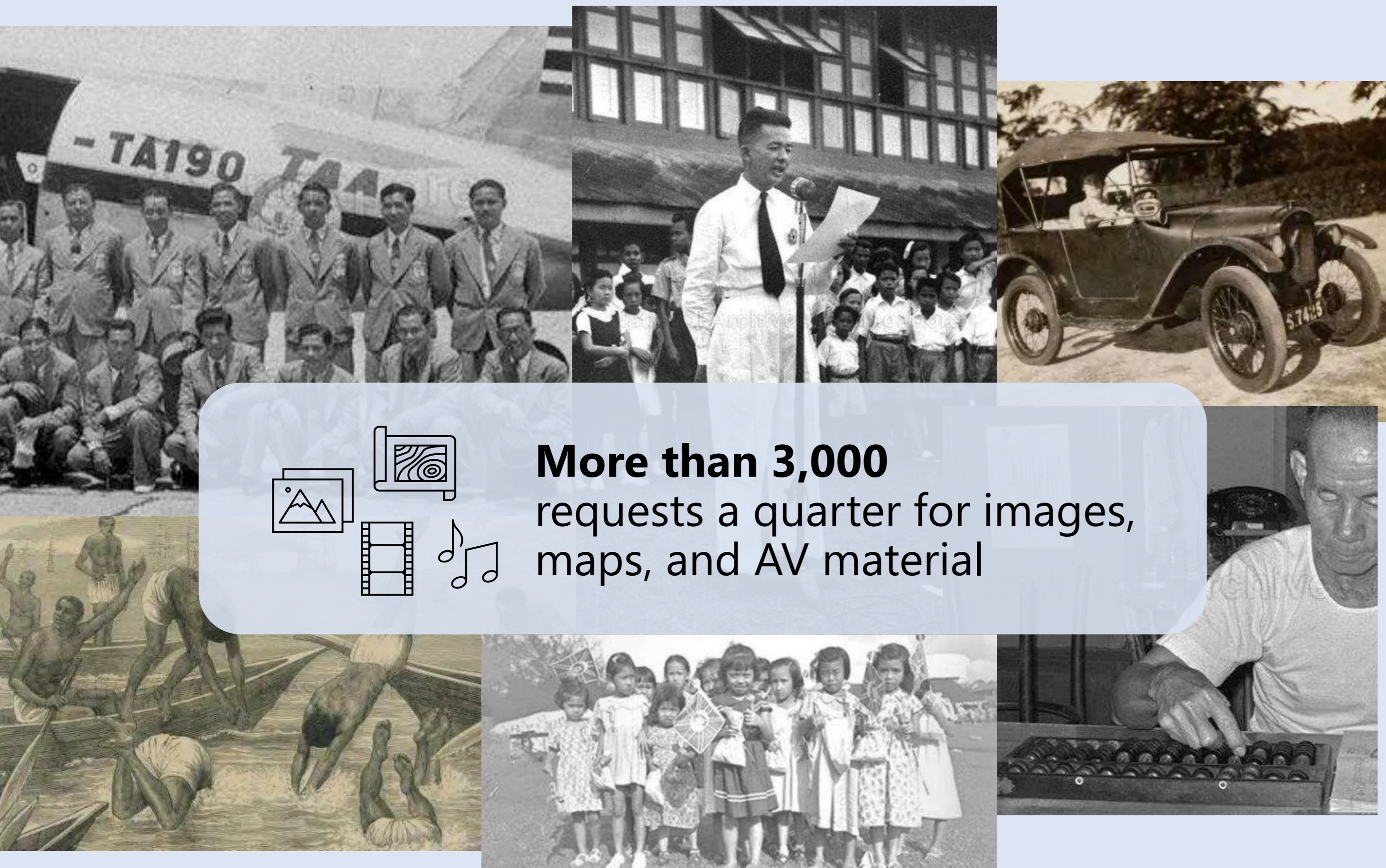
Working upstream with creators

to shine a light on NLB as a memory institution

Project LAmp
(Loop and Amplify)

More than 3,000
requests a quarter for images, maps, and AV material

1 TEACH
Working with creators, influencers to use our resources and credit us

2 TRACK
Analysing usage to target future awareness building amongst creators

3 TELL
Amplifying the use of our resources, thereby shining a light on NLB as a memory institution

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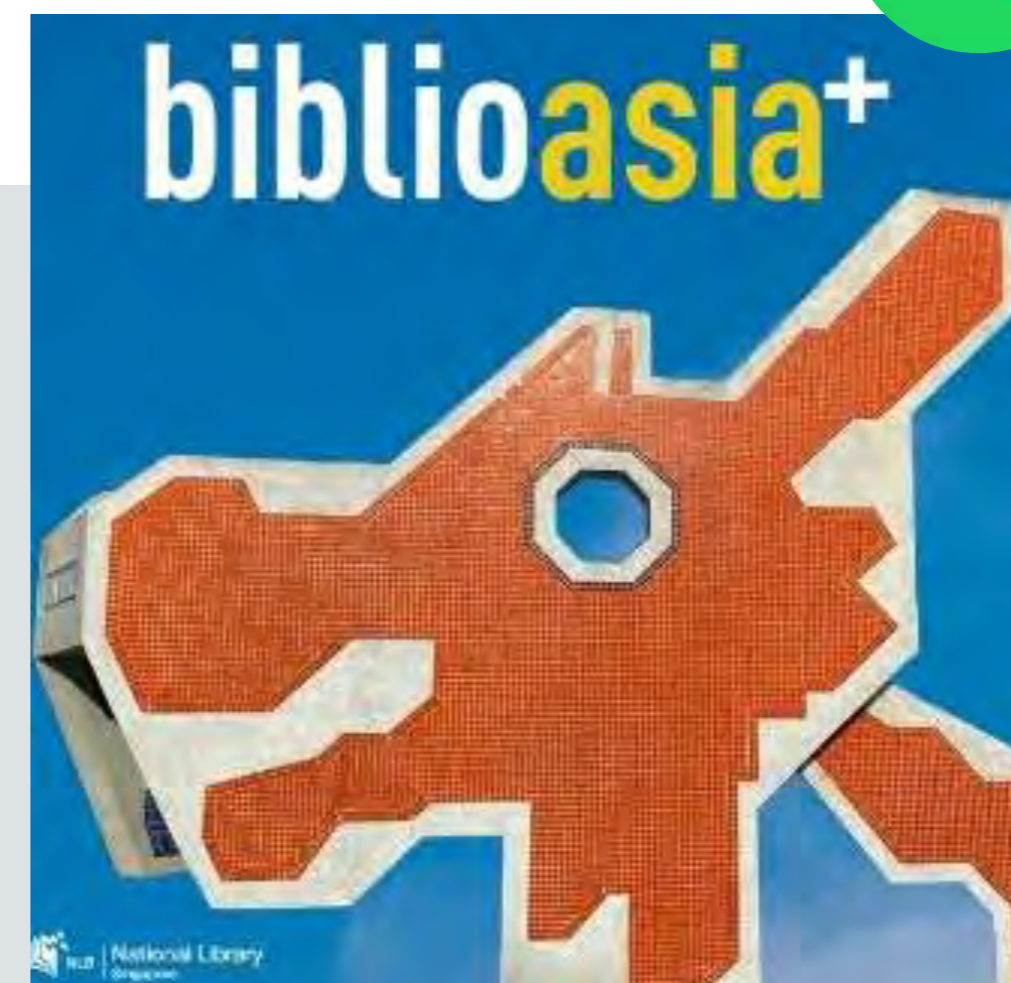Singapore

Reaching out to the online community

by offering bite-sized content

ON YOUTUBE

Comprising three original video series, and BiblioAsia Reels, the videos have garnered more than 340,000 views on YouTube.

ON SPOTIFY

12 episodes of podcast in season 1. Also available on Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, and many more.

IN THE AIR

NLB videos and podcasts are made available on KrisWorld, Singapore Airline's (SIA) in-flight entertainment system.

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Singaporium, a permanent exhibition space at Punggol Regional Library brings Singapore stories to life with interactive showcase.

SG Alcove at Central Public Library will feature AR and immersive storytelling room experience, and interactive kiosks.

Deepening in-person engagements at public libraries

by integrating Singapore experiences within our collections

National Library Board Singapore

Delivering fresh and innovative content

through novel programming

" *Different kind of programme that you typically see in libraries.* "

" *The poetry competition was eye opening and spine chilling in equal measure.* "

ART OUT LOUD

Poets battled it out at a spoken-word poetry competition based on artworks from the library's art collection.
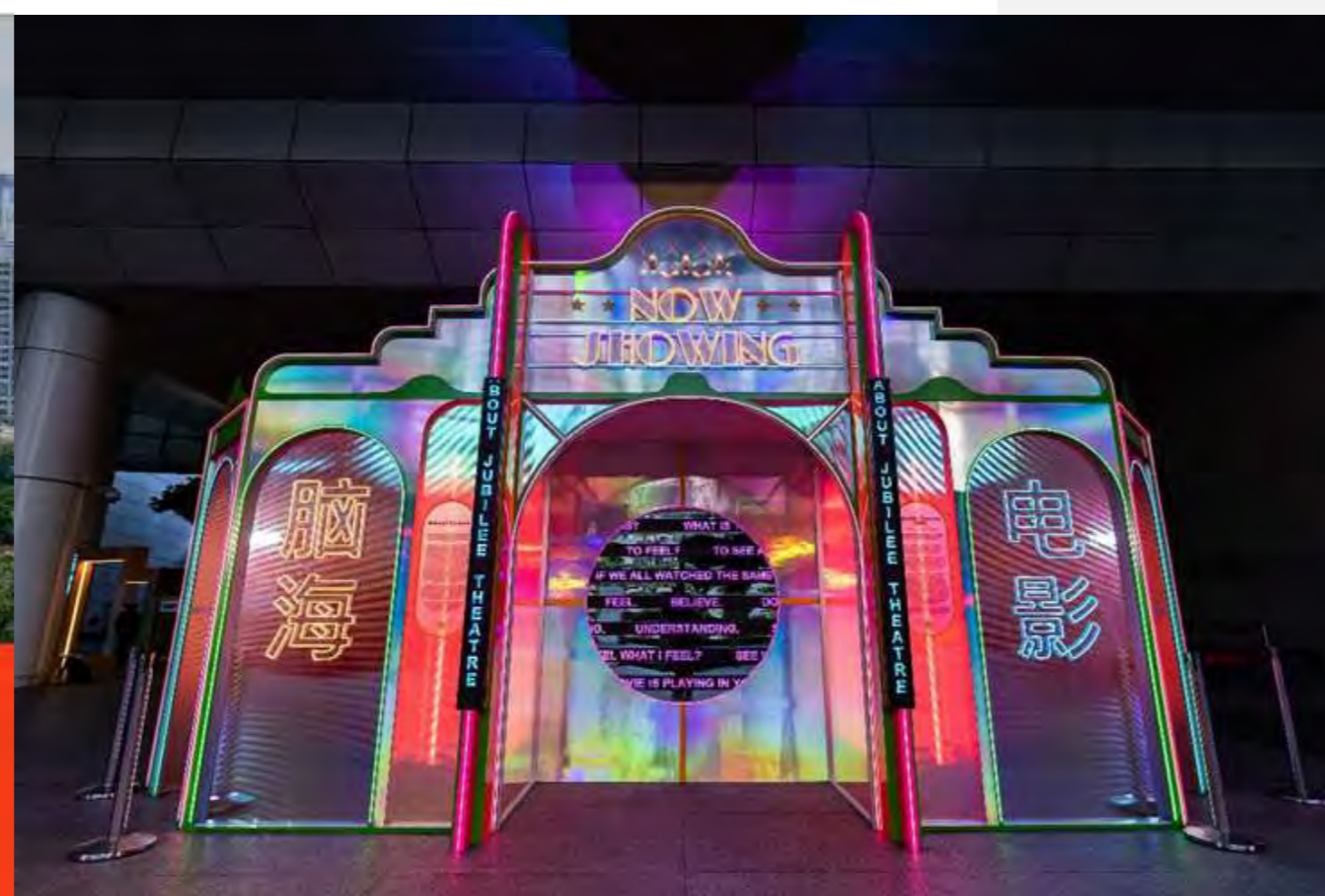
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Experiencing Singapore Stories through space and time

by going beyond online experiences

Started as a website for map-based, placed-related stories, the website was enhanced with new story maps and digital content. Curiocity was expanded to include installations through collaborations with major museum festivals.

CURIOCITY WEBSITE

Features story maps and place-related stories

CURIOCITY: PLACES & PERSPECTIVES (JAN 2022, SEASON 1)

80,000 visited the installations

CURIOCITY ENCOUNTERS: SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL 2022 (AUG 2022, SEASON 2)

90,000 visited the installations
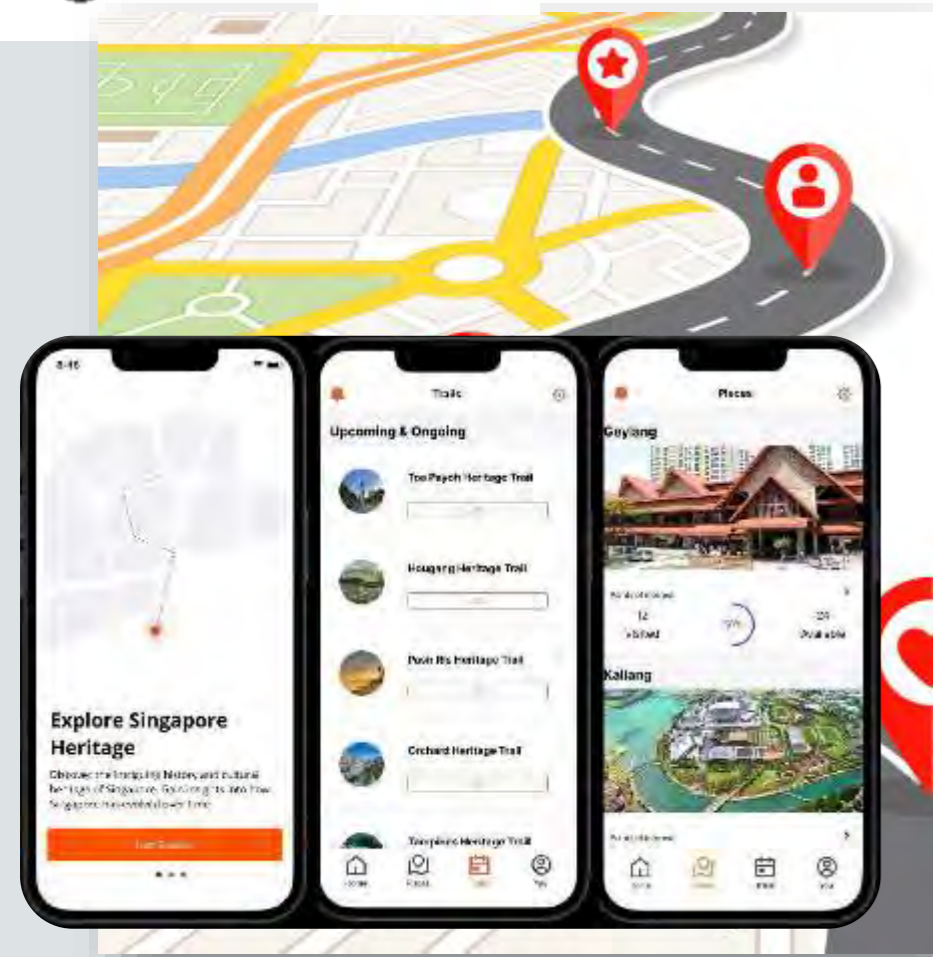
Restricted

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Experimenting to reach a wider audience

by developing new tech products that can proliferate our collections outside our libraries and archives where people can encounter them.
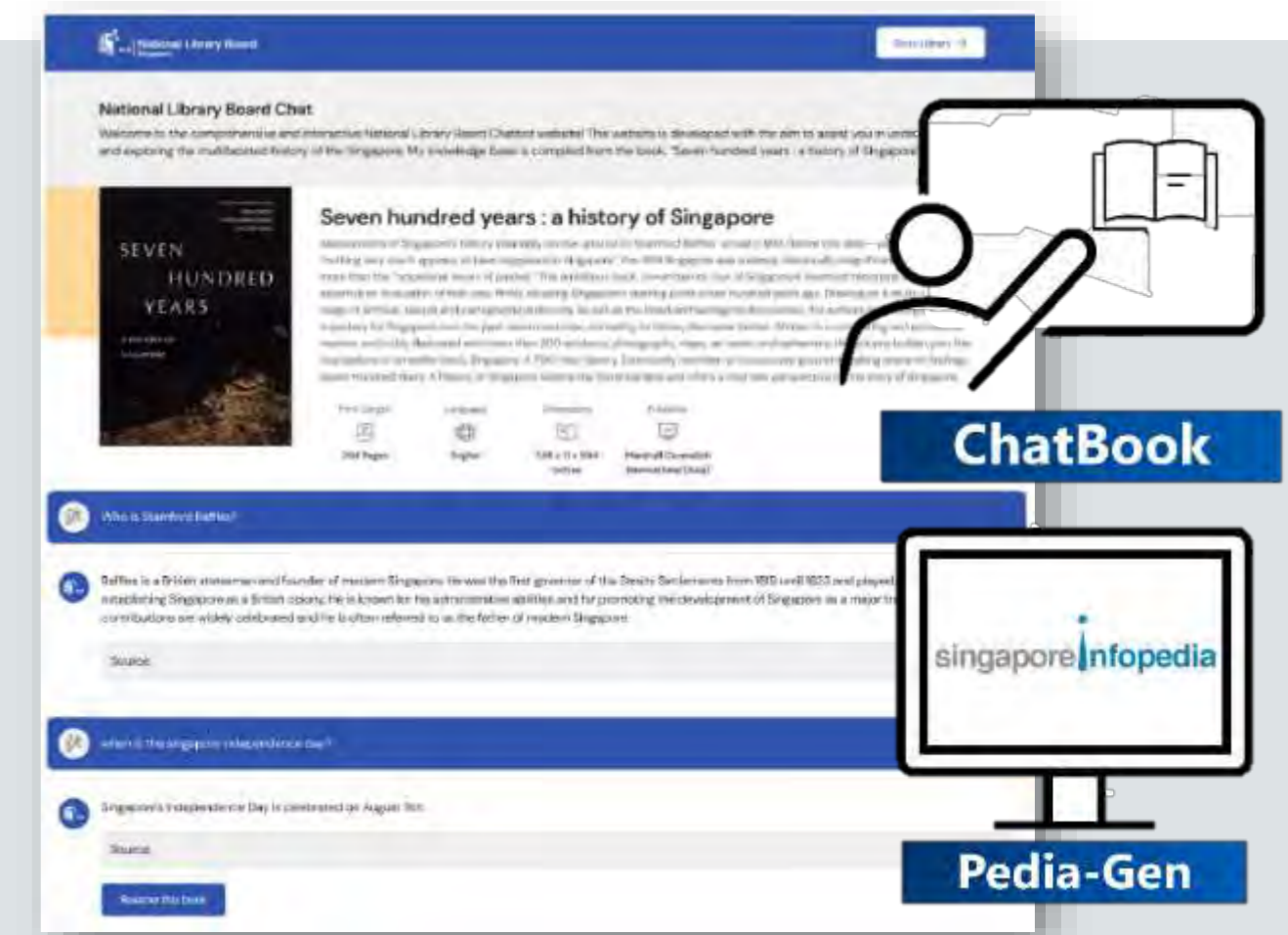
1 ( ) EXPLORESG

ExploreSG is a webApp for guided tour or school learning journey.

2 ( ) GLUE

Glue is a real time visualizer of photos and captions of Singaporeans, populated through hashtags.

2 GenAI PROTOTYPES

Pedia-Gen and *ChatBook* leverages Generative AI technology.

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Thank you

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