

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



LIBRARY
Association of
SINGAPORE

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Disclaimer: This 2020/2021 annual report was accurate at the time of publication.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

What an incredibly challenging year 2020 has been, with many uncertainties and disruptions triggered by the pandemic.

Despite having to cope with the rapid changes at work and to our daily life routine, the council members and their respective committee members remain committed to serve our members. We are pleased to share the Annual Report 2020/2021 with the following key highlights.

We noted that current membership application and renewal processes could be enhanced to improve the experience for our members. In 2020, the Web and IT committee redesigned the entire structure in order to automate the application processes, hence, incorporating various new features to improve user's experience. The system will be ready for implementation by end of March 2021.

As virtual interactions have become the new normal, both training and engagement programmes were redesigned and delivered via an online platform, allowing members to participate from any locations. Programmes such as *Reflections on Circuit Breaker* and *Reimagining the Libraries in the New Normal* were good opportunities for members to connect virtually and share their experiences on how different libraries coped and continue to cope with the new changes.

The publications committee has also embarked on a special commemorative E-book titled *The LAS & PPM Presidents' Journey: Celebrating 65 Years of Librarianship* to celebrate LAS and PPM's 65th anniversary. This is a joint publication with Librarians Association of Malaysia (Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia, PPM) and will be released in first half of 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank all council members and committee members for their valuable contributions and commitment during this challenging period.

Tan Chui Peng
President, LAS

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020/2021



Tan Chui Peng
President
National Library Board



Samantha Ang
Immediate Past President
Nanyang Technological University



Sadie-Jane Nunis
Vice President
Singapore Institute of Management



Joanne Koh
Honorary Secretary
National Library Board



Yuan Ye
Assistant Honorary Secretary
National University of Singapore



Gandhimathy Durairaj
Honorary Treasurer
National University of Singapore



Rindra Ramli
Council Member
Yale-NUS College



Fong Ying Yi
Council Member
National Library Board



Kong Leng Foong
Council Member
National Library Board



Zubaidah Mohsen
Council Member
National Library Board



Noverinda Bella Ratmelia
Council Member
Nanyang Technological University

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

- Yuan Ye (Chair);
- Gee Miaw Miin; and
- Sheryl Hanalee P. Valerio.

In 2020, LAS membership has seen a dip given the uncertainty that the COVID-19 situation brought about to members. The table below shows the membership summary as of 31 December 2020. The total membership count with payment received in 2020 stood at 293.

A total of 229 applications were received in 2020 and 86% made the payment in 2020, while payment for the remaining 33 applications were received in 2021.

Additionally, a total of 166 membership new applications/renewals were received between Jan to Mar 2021. These applications will be incorporated in the count for financial year 2021.

Membership Category	December 2019	December 2020	% Change
Professional	201	105	-47%
Associate	76	44	-42%
Affiliate	0	1	N.A
Life	97	97	0%
Honorary	2	2	0%
Professional (nonworking)	5	4	-20%
Institution (Libraries)	26	27	4%
Institution (Schools)	15	10	-33%
Institution (Others)	4	3	-25%
Total	426	293	-31%

Transition of LAS Membership Application/Renewal Platform

Effective from July 2020, the membership functions pertaining to new applications, renewals, or updates were migrated to Microsoft Forms. To manage the changes and minimise the impact on members, the Membership committee reviewed the workflow and implemented some improvements, such as sending a soft copy receipt to each member after payment is made. The committee also worked with IT Committee for the transition, addressing issues to ensure transactions are not impacted by the new platform.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

- Rindra Ramli (Chair);
- Eunice Anthony;
- Dong Danping;
- Malar Ilangovan;
- Edward Lim;
- Low Jiaxin; and
- Sarah Ruslan.

Summary of activities:

Partnership with Skilltype

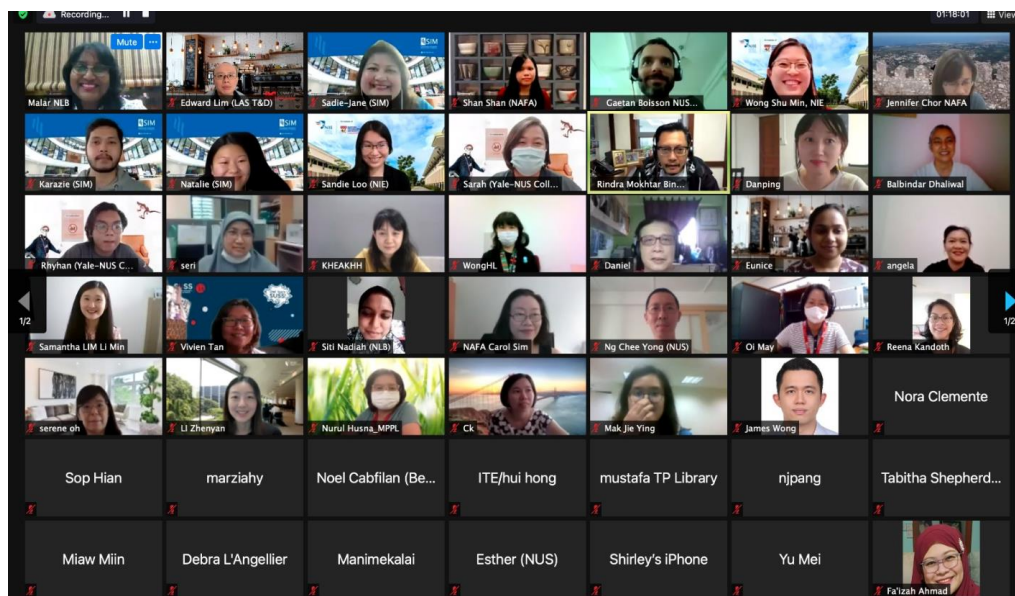
29 October 2020



Skilltype is a talent marketplace for information professionals to analyse, grow, and share expertise. For librarians and paraprofessionals, Skilltype aggregates global conference and professional association content. It surfaces the most relevant resources and opportunities based on your interests. Singapore is now a user locale and Singaporean organisations have been added to their database. LAS is proud to be involved in this community and committed to providing timely training content on the platform. Other community members include Ithaka S&R, CAVAL, and Electronic Resources and Libraries (ER&L). We will play an active role in shaping the direction of Skilltype's content distribution and measurement offering.

LAS-NLB Professional Sharing 2020 (Virtual)

July & November 2020



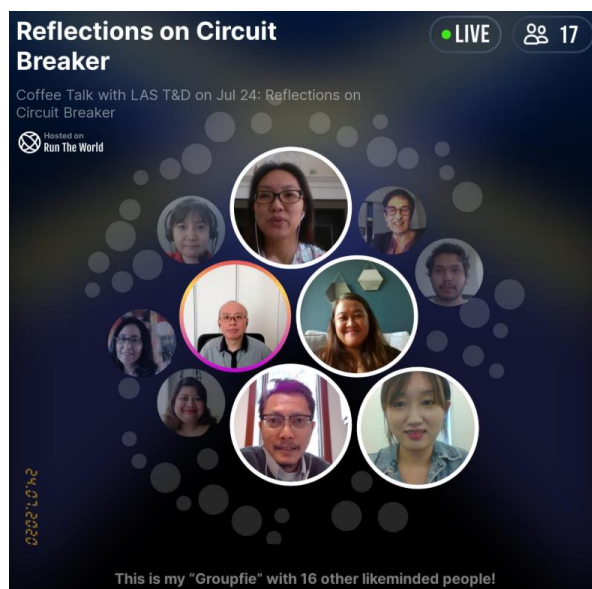
Training and Development Committee (T & D) collaborated with the National Library Board, Singapore to organise two professional sharing sessions via Zoom (due to the pandemic). These events were held in July and November 2020 pertaining to the theme of **Recreating Libraries** and **Reimagining the Libraries in the New Normal**. We had participation from the following libraries, namely:

- NAFA Library;
- National Library Board;
- Nanyang Polytechnic Library;
- Nanyang Technological University Library;
- National University of Singapore Libraries;
- NTU-NIE Library;
- Singapore Institute of Management Library;
- Singapore Management University Libraries;
- Singapore University of Technology and Design Library; and
- Yale-NUS College Library.

More than 300 participants from various academic and public libraries as well as organisations attended the online events.

Virtual Coffee event: Reflections on Circuit Breaker

24 July 2020



T & D organised a virtual coffee session on the Run the World platform for LAS members to reflect on what we had to do since the sudden closing of our physical libraries due to the pandemic.

During the informal, relaxed chat, participants shared successes, takeaways, new services, and revamped programmes that will continue as we transition back into regular library service.

We learnt how agile and resilient librarians and their libraries could be. Using the Wefie function available via the platform, participants also took a group photo to commemorate the occasion!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

- Fong Ying Yi (Chair);
- Edward Lim;
- Phoebe Lim;
- Gee Miaw Miin; and
- Nur Fitri Muhammad Syafran.

WSQ Framework for Library and Information Services

Previously, the maintenance of the WSQ framework was jointly held by LAS and the National Library Board (NLB). During a recent review by Skillsfuture Singapore, and in consultation with both NLB and Skillsfuture Singapore, LAS, as has assumed the responsibility of overseeing this framework. This will not only allow LAS to update the framework as required, but also to continue to provide support to paraprofessionals.

In support of paraprofessionals in the industry, the committee is putting out an Invitation to Quote for service providers who are interested in the provision of training under the WSQ Framework for Library and Information Services. Courses will start progressively from the second half of 2021.

Professional Development (PD) Scheme

There have been some updates to the eligible criteria after taking into consideration some of the changes to the current information landscape. Some key changes include allowing webinars to be accepted as a learning event and allowing for up to eight fiction titles to be included as part of the professional reading log. The PD form has since been updated and is now available as an online [form](#).

LAS has gone through two rounds of callouts for Practising Professionals under the revised PD scheme.

Resources to Support Professional Development

Just past the Circuit Breaker period last year, the Professional Development committee prepared a Professional Development: Work from Home edition article, to support library professionals in continuing their professional development from home. This comprised of a collection of free webinars and training so anyone could get the support they needed for free.

In 2021, to show our commitment to helping more library professionals attain the Practising Professional status, the committee launched its inaugural Newsbytes series, highlighting articles and websites of interest, free webinars, training, and good-to-know journals. The committee will post updates on the latest free training and articles periodically to continue supporting the development of staff in the library industry.

PROGRAMMES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Members (from left to right):

- Zubaidah Mohsen (Chair);
- Rajendra Munoo;
- Jenny Wong; and
- Stephanie Tan.

The committee focusses on engaging LAS members to new developments in the library industry; providing members with opportunities to network and bond over learning activities and inspire new ideas and innovation.

Summary of activities:

The following were some of the planned programmes that had to be shelved, postponed, or replaced due to Safe Management Measures.

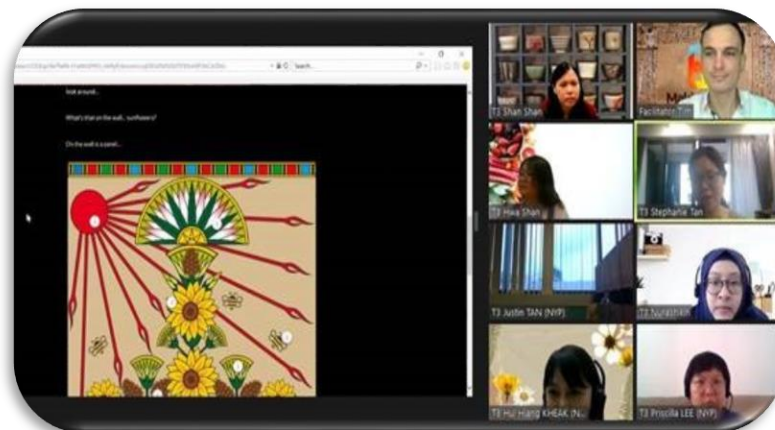
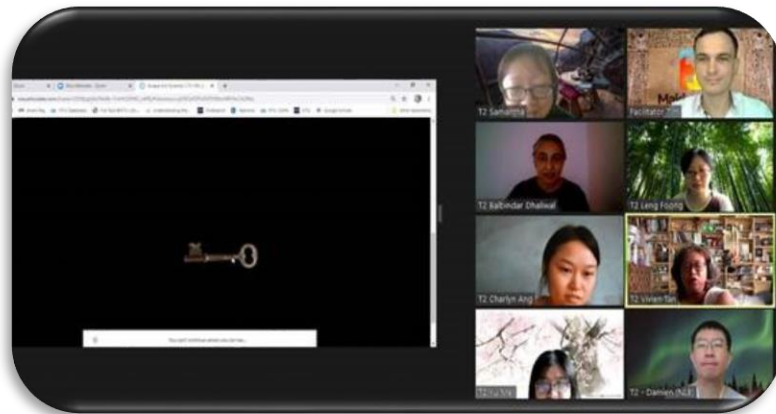
Intent	Activity
Innovation	Learning Journey to Google Makerspace to learn more about the creative culture
Informational	Retirement Planning & Beyond
Celebration & Networking	Movie Screening in celebration of LAS Anniversary (March)
Inspire new ideas	Learning Journey to learn more about the trend of GLAM - Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums and enhance and Art Appreciation skill.
Network building	Book party whereby we share our favourite reads

These were programmes we were able to run amidst the lock-down and reduced interactions due to Covid-19.

Virtual Escape Room

18 December 2020

As we close off the year 2020, a total of 22 LAS members came together via Zoom on a nice Friday afternoon (18 December), for a Virtual Escape Room activity. Participants were divided into three teams to solve puzzles, in a race to escape the Pyramid! It was exhilarating as the teams collaborated while bonding in order to successfully accomplish the mission together and escape. Some teams were so super-fast that they were given another mission to escape from.





Here is some of the feedback shared by the participants after the programme:

Super fun experience with the Virtual Escape Game! It was a great session to interact and bond with colleagues from other libraries. Hope there are more opportunities to take part in such activities in future. Kudos to the team for organizing! ~ Hwa Shan

Fun & Interactive

Challenging, need brain power!

Perhaps for a start, select the difficulty of e-escape game as easiest instead of medium/hard

Good that facilitators pop in and check on different teams occasionally

~ Justin

The virtual escape room organized by LAS was a fun and exciting experience! It was well planned and developed, with small groups putting our brains together to solve mysteries collectively. Packed with brain-stimulating puzzles involving sound, music and motor skills (must have good control of mouse for certain activities), participants were treated with loads of entertainment and satisfaction

(upon completion). After attending the session, we are considering to have our own version of Virtual Escape Room to engage with our students. ~ Hui Hiang

I must admit that I signed up for the event on 18 Dec 2020 as I was curious how team building activities and escape rooms could be implemented online. While the ice breaker activities were fun, I was excited once we joined the breakout rooms in smaller teams to attempt the "Escape from the Pyramid" challenge. I must say that the vendor (Making Teams) did a wonderful job in repurposing an elearn software (Articulate 360 & Rise 360) to run virtual escape rooms. The puzzles were well designed and challenging, and I loved the fact that each member of the team took turns to contribute ideas to solve the puzzles, and I realized that some of our team members were really fast puzzle solvers. It would have taken us more time to make the attempt had we tried to do so individually. Because of this collective effort, we managed to complete the Pyramid escape in a relatively short time and were rewarded with a second challenge based on the Indiana Jones movies. I would like to thank the LAS organizing committee and I look forward to another team building event of this nature. ~ Damien

Retirement Talk

10 September 2020



The LAS Programmes and Engagement Committee invited former librarian and Certified Financial Planner™ Joseph Kennedy to share his advisory experience

with LAS members. Team members were actively involved in putting together the programme to ensure it was an engaging one. The talk was held on Thursday, 10 September 2020 for LAS members and their partners via Zoom with over 20 registered participants.

Joseph emphasised starting with a plan no matter where you might be in your life as it can provide the advantage for better decision-making. He shared different ways that we can approach retirement planning to achieve a comfortable retirement and discussed the tools and resources available for Singaporeans to ensure that their distribution of assets is planned properly. It was an engaging session with participants wanting to know more about topics such as wills, trusts, daily or monthly budgeting, keeping track of expenses, and what types of financial services are out there to help us figure out our finance.

Here are some of the comments shared by the participants after the programme:

"The entire talk as a whole gave me some additional insights especially since I am in talks at the moment about future planning"

"Sharing session of the planning strategies"

"Joe was very clear and easy to follow. Good slides too"

"Overview of financial planning"

"Financial plan, review annual"

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

- Kong Leng Foong (Chair);
- Phoebe Lim;
- Charmaine Tan;
- Mindy Tan;
- Carmen Wang;
- Goh Yu Mei;
- Nadia Arianna Ramli; and
- Lo Wan Ni.

LAS Bulletin

Ten articles were published between May 2020 and March 2021. The team also conducted a sharing session with Nanyang Polytechnic librarians in January 2021 on tips on writing for the bulletin.



65th Anniversary Commemorative E-book

In 2020, the committee worked on a special commemorative E-book titled *The LAS & PPM Presidents' Journey: Celebrating 65 Years of Librarianship* to celebrate LAS and PPM's 65th anniversary. The book will be released in 2021.

Upcoming Projects

Starting from 2021, the committee will be embarking on a digitisation project to digitise past LAS publications.

WEB AND IT COMMITTEE


Committee Members:

- Noverinda Bella Ratmelia (Chair);
- Jacky Wong;
- Joan Wee;
- Sun Shengbo; and
- Chia Yew Boon.

New Online Membership Registration

The current membership system involves a lot of manual processing for both the members and membership committee. To streamline the application and renewal process, the IT committee implemented a new online membership system with the following new features:

Online registration and payment. Members will be able to make payment online with their credit cards upon registration. Upon successful payment, members will receive an official electronic receipt as proof of payment. This electronic receipt will replace the paper receipt that the membership committee used to give to members.



PAYMENT RECEIPT FOR MEMBERSHIP_LEVEL

Dear Account_Name

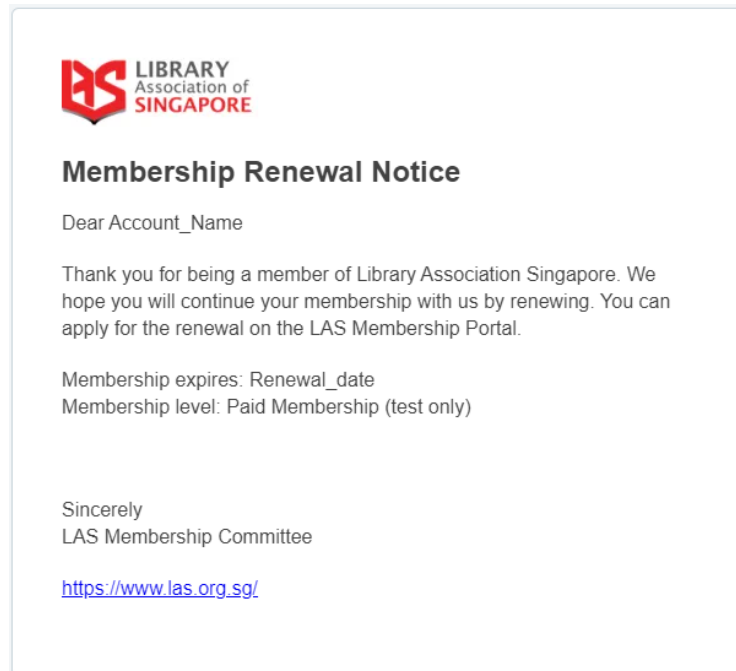
Thank you for being a **Membership_Level** member! Your membership payment has been successfully processed.

Transaction ID: Credit_Card_Transaction_ID
Payment Date: Feb 15, 2021
Payment Method: card ****

Item	Qty	Price	Subtotal
Membership_Label	1	\$100.00	\$100.00

Sincerely
Library Association Singapore Membership Committee
<https://www.las.org.sg/>

Renewal reminder for members. Members will receive automated reminders approximately one month before the renewal is due.



Online renewal for existing members. Renewal can be done online at members' convenience. For changing of membership level, members will be required to inform the membership committee to confirm the eligibility before the membership level can be changed.

The online renewal is only applicable to personal membership. Institutional membership should contact the membership committee directly for application and renewal.

Members will be able to update their own personal details online. Previously, members must inform the membership committee if they have any changes to their personal details and wait until the changes are applied to their record. With the new system, members will be able to update their own details online and have the changes be applied immediately.

Member-only area. The new portal will come with member-only area that is not accessible to the public. This feature will be available in second half of 2021.

CHRONOLOGY OF LAS

- 1955** Formation of the Malayan Library Group on 25 March 1955.
- 1958** Name changed to Library Association of Malaya and Singapore.
- 1960** Association dissolved and two new groups were formed due to the Federation government's policy to not grant registration to pan-Malayan associations:
- Persatuan Perpustakaan Tanah Melayu (Library Association of Malaya)
 - Library Association of Singapore
- 1964** Library Association of Singapore was reconstituted as the Library Association of Malaya, Singapore Branch, after the merger between Singapore and Malaya.
- 1966** The Singapore Branch became an independent body after Singapore's separation from Malaysia. The Persatuan Perpustakaan Singapore (Library Association of Singapore) was formed.
- 1972** The Association was renamed as the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) on 25 March 1972.
- 2005** The Association celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 15 November 2005.
- 2007** *Librarians, Strengthening, Moving Forward* was a conference held from 29 to 31 January 2007 that was run by the Association.

The Association accorded Mrs Hedwig Anuar the first LAS Lifetime Contribution Award on 1 November 2007.

2008 The Association gave out the LAS Professional Service award to 3 winners: Ms Lau Siew Kheng, Ms Manijeh Namazie, and Mr R. Ramachandran, at the Istana Reception on 9 May 2008.

The Association held the LAS Conference 2008 on the theme *Innovate to Serve* on 8 to 9 May 2008.

The LAS Professional Development Scheme was launched on 25 August 2008.

2009 136 LAS professional members from the first five batches were given the Practising Professional award under the PDS scheme.

The Association accorded the LAS Professional Service Award to Ms Sylvia Yap at the LAS Tri-event held on 16 October 2009.

The Tri-event also saw the launch of the inaugural LAS Library School award Scholarship, which was awarded to Mr Herman Felani bin Md Yunos.

Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large and Patron of LAS, was invited to give out the LAS Lifetime Contribution Award to Ms Rosemary Yeap at the LAS Annual Dinner held at the Pod@NLB on 16 October 2009.

2010 Launch of first online volume of the Singapore Journal of Library and Information Management on 25 January 2010. The table of contents and full text of the articles for Volume 38 are open access and available to everyone. The journal is no longer available in hard copy.

Launch of LAS first entry level (WSQ Level Two) training programme for library support staff on *Support General Reference and Information Enquiry*. This was the first of the five competency based programmes which form the WSQ Higher Certificate in Library and Information Services. All five modules were developed by LAS and approved by WDA by end 2010.

The 2010 LAS Awards were presented by our Guest of Honour, Dr N. Varaprasad at the LAS Awards Ceremony and Hi-Tea event held on 15 January 2011 at the Rendezvous Hotel.

The Association accorded the LAS Lifetime Contribution Award to Datin Patricia Lim Pui Huen.

The LAS Professional Service Award 2010 was presented to Mr Choy Fatt Cheong.

Mr Nurhazman Abdul Aziz, from NTU Library, became the first award winner of the LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award, which was launched in 2009.

The LAS Library School Scholarship 2010 was presented to Ms Samantha Thanh Giang Vu by Ms Puspa Yeow, President of LAS.

Debby Wegener, from TP Library, became the first award winner of the LAS Special Librarian Passion Award, which was launched in 2010.

2011 The LAS website was revamped with a fresh design and features that now allow online registration, renewal, and payment for both membership and conferences.

In September, LAS initiated a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter <http://facebook.com/las.org.sg> and http://twitter.com/las_org_sg.

The *Libraries for Tomorrow II* seminar was held on 14 April 2011 at the Biopolis using social media tools such as Twitter and SMS to encourage spontaneous interaction at the seminar.

2012 LAS conducted a Rebranding Workshop at the Brunei Library Association for Bruneian librarians, archivists, and curators in December 2011. This was featured in *The Brunei Times*:
<http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2011/12/01/workshop-heldlibrary-management>.

The 2011 LAS Awards were presented by the Guest of Honour, Ms Hedwig Anuar at the LAS New Year Bash held on 7 January 2012 at the Rendezvous Hotel.

The LAS Lifetime Contribution Award was presented to Mr Chan Thye Seng.

The Association accorded the LAS Professional Service Award 2011 to Ms Ngian Lek Choh.

Mr Aaron Tay Chee Hsien, from NUS Libraries, was given the LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award.

The LAS Library School Scholarship 2011 was presented to Mr Cheng Eng Aun.

LAS expanded its website to manage job postings for the Library of Singapore's community and posted on <http://las.org.sg/wp/jobsboards>. The site was launched in January 2012.

LAS participated in the PPM-LAS joint conference in Malacca from 16 to 17 March 2012.

The Committee on Information Studies Programmes and Industry Needs (CISPIN), endorsed by LAS, announced the Terms of Reference and Members to look into a better and more effective alignment between the skills and knowledge required by the current and future needs of libraries on 25 June 2012.

"Librarians for Tomorrow" LAS Conference 2012 was held on 25 September 2012 at Biopolis to discuss how librarians would still be relevant in the future. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister of State for Education & Information, Communications and the Arts.

2013 "Celebrating Librarians: LAS Awards and Book Launch" was graced by the President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, at Conrad Centennial Singapore and was held on 18 August 2013 in conjunction with IFLA WLIC 2013.

LAS Awards were presented by the Guest of Honour, the President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and LAS President, Mrs Lee Cheng Ean.

The LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2013 was presented to Mr Ramachandran Rasu from National Book Development Council of Singapore.

The Association accorded the LAS Professional Service Award 2013 to Mr Idris Rashid Khan Surattee from Singapore Press Holdings.

Mr V. Somasundram from NTU Libraries was presented the LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2013.

The LAS Library School Scholarship 2012 was presented to Ms Chew Shu Wen from NUS Libraries.

Mr Rajendra Munoo from SMU Library was the awardee of LAS Special Librarian Passion Award 2012.

Celebrating librarians through the stories librarians tell in a commemorative LAS publication *In 99 Words: Stories Librarians Tell*. This special publication was launched on the same evening and complimentary copies were made available to delegates at the Congress, sponsors, and participants at the celebration as well as libraries and LAS members.

Launch of LAS "Libraries & Librarians in Singapore" website on 18 Aug 2013. It is a web community-based project with the objective to achieve an active and easy-to-update directory-like listing of the libraries, librarians as well as library support staff who works/have worked in Singapore. This website is accessible at <http://www.las.org.sg/wp/librariesandlibrariansinsingapore/>.

LAS initiated "Love Your Librarian Day" and a celebration with LAS members was held on 15 Feb 2014.

2014 The LAS Executive Library Management Programme (ELMP) was launched on 3 May 2014 during the LAS AGM 2014. ELMP is organised by the Library Association of Singapore, in collaboration with Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Division of Information Studies.

The LAS WLIC Grant was launched on 3 May 2014 at LAS AGM 2014 with the generous donation provided by the Singapore National Committee WLIC 2013. The grant aimed to provide LAS members with financial

support and opportunities to learn and network as well as to attend IFLA World Library and Information Congress or Satellite Meetings.

The "Libraries for Tomorrow" Conference 2014 was held on 14 October 2014 at the Matrix Auditorium@Biopolis, OneNorth with the theme "People, Places, Possibilities".

Ms Janice Chia from NTU Libraries was the awardee of the LAS Passion Award 2013.

The LAS Library School Scholarship 2013 was presented to Mr Jacky Wong Kae Perng from NIE Library.

2015 LAS 60th Anniversary Celebration

In conjunction with LAS' 60th Anniversary, LAS members participated in two *Librarians Give Back* activities: *Touching Lives, Making a Difference!*

- Day activities with Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) was held on 9 March 2015; and
- Storytelling cum activities to the children with hearing impaired and children with visually impaired at the Lighthouse School held on 12 March 2015.

LAS celebrated its 60th Anniversary cum Love Your Librarian Day at a dinner held at the Concorde Hotel on 18 Apr 2015. An exhibition that showcase the history of LAS, its role in educating librarians and library support staff and its participation in international associations and forum was set up. At the dinner, guests and members were treated to a slide show on the 60 years of LAS as well as appreciative stories from the users of various libraries, a skit by the NUS librarians, and flute performance by a NLB librarian. LAS Grants and Awards were presented by LAS President, Mrs Lee Cheng Ean.

The LAS-WLIC Grant 2014/15 was presented to Mr Rajendra Munoo from SMU Library.

Mr Feng Yikang from NUS Libraries was the awardee of the LAS Overseas Professional Development Sponsorship 2014/15.

The LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2014 was presented to Ms Wee Joo Gim.

Ms Khoo Ai Ling from Singapore Polytechnic Library was the awardee of the LAS Passion Award 2014.

Ms Low Jiaxin from SMU Library was presented the LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2014.

The LAS Library School Scholarship 2014 was presented to Ms Dong Danping from SUTD Library

LAS President, Mrs Judy Ng represented LAS at the 16th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVI) during 9 to 14 June 2015 at BITEC, Bangkok, Thailand and presented a report on Singapore Libraries.

Mrs Judy Ng and Ms Chew Shu Wen attended the BSLA Pre-CONSAL: "Leadership for Young Promising Librarians to Build Stronger Library Associations in ASEAN Countries" in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 and 9 June 2015. The Workshop will be hosted by Thai Library Association and jointly organised by IFLA, Brunei Darussalam Library Association and the IFLA Regional Office (Asia and Oceania).

Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (PPM) held the "Celebrating PPM's 60 Years (1955-2015): Diamond Jubilee Conference on Librarians for the Cyber World" from 14 to 15 September 2015 at Pullman Hotel, Bangsar,

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mrs Judy Ng attended the celebration together with Ms Samantha Ang (LAS Vice-President), Mr Edward Lim (LAS Council Member), and Mr Jacky Wong (LAS Council Member).

Mrs Judy Ng presented a paper entitled "Changing roles of librarians and information professional in a knowledge based society" at the "Celebrating PPM's 60 Years (1955 to 2015): Diamond Jubilee Conference on Librarians for the Cyber World".

2016 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2015

Ms Chng Kim See received the prestigious Lifetime Contribution Award for her strong contributions and service in the LAS Council and various committees/working groups over a span of 13 years.

LAS Professional Service Award 2015

Mr Aaron Tay, SMU Libraries was awarded the Professional Service Award for his strong contributions to the profession and in generously sharing his knowledge, ideas and thoughts in various areas with colleagues in Singapore and globally.

LAS Passion Award 2015

Mr Ian Yap, NLB was awarded the Passion Award for his dedication to the profession and service to community through his role in nationwide programmes and organisation of events at an international level at NLB.

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2015

Mr Hedren Sum was awarded the Outstanding Newcomer Award for his notable accomplishments at NTU Libraries in a short time.

LAS Library School Scholarship 2015

Ms Valerio Sheryl Hanalee Pascual was awarded the LAS School Scholarship.

LAS Overseas Library Professional Development Sponsorship

Ms Chow Chai Khim, NUS Libraries was the recipient of the Sponsorship. She attended the 8th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML 2016): Exploring Trends and Challenges on Building the Future Libraries from 24 – 27 May 2016 held in London, UK.

LAS –WLIC Grant

Ms Joan Wee, NTU Libraries was the recipient of the Grant. She attended the 2016 IFLA WLIC at Columbus, Ohio from 13-19 August 2016 held in Ohio, USA.

LAS Libraries for Tomorrow Conference.

The Libraries for Tomorrow conference 2016 was held on 20 September 2016 at Matrix Auditorium@ Biopolis, and was attended by 320 librarians and information professionals.

The theme *Smart Libraries for Tomorrow: Disrupt and Innovate* was chosen as it signified the dynamic evolution of the information landscape, and the challenges and opportunities present to libraries and information professionals.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) and Library & Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA).

LAS, ALIA, and LIANZA signed a MOU on 12 October 2016 to collaborate and promote Library and Information sector across the three countries and represent the sector's work at an international level (IFLA). The immediate collaborative effort of this MOU is to run the Library and Information sector Gold Coast Conference in 2018.

Executive Library Management Programme (ELMP)

The second run of the Executive Library Management Programme (ELMP) begun on 13 February 2017. The 2017 run accepted 15 participants from National Library Board, Temasek Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education, Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), and Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

2017 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2016

Ms. Isabel Yeo I-Sha was awarded the prestigious Lifetime Contribution Award to recognise a retiree who has significantly contributed to the development of the library profession in Singapore and who has represented Singapore on an international level. It is awarded to a recipient identified by the LAS Council.

LAS Professional Service Award 2016

Ms. Wong Kah Wei, NUS Libraries was awarded the Professional Service Award. Criteria for this award include strong leadership in the profession, significant contributions to the profession and an active LAS membership.

LAS Passion Award 2016

Ms. Raneetha Rajaratnam, NLB was awarded the Passion Award. The award aims to recognise one individual every year for outstanding contributions, commitment and service to the library profession.

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2016

Ms. Shameem Nilofar, SMU Libraries was awarded the Outstanding Newcomer Award. This award seeks to recognise the accomplishments of outstanding newcomers to the library profession and to encourage outstanding contributions throughout their career.

LAS Library School Scholarship 2016

There were no applications for this year. The key objectives of the Scholarship are to support and encourage individuals to attain higher education in the library profession and also provide financial support for graduate study in a recognised school of library science, leading to an MLS, M.Sc. (Information Studies) or equivalent.

LAS Overseas Library Professional Development Sponsorship

Mr. Galvin Soh Boon Ming, SMU Libraries was the recipient this year. The Library Association of Singapore has funds for two LAS Personal Members to enjoy a subsidy of up to S\$2,000 each to attend a professional development event.

LAS believe that participation in conferences develops professional growth and strengthens our library community. Galvin will be attending the Library Marketing and Communications Conference 2017 in the United States.

LAS –WLIC Grant

Ms. Shirley Lim Keh Lee, NLB was the recipient for this year. The purpose of the Grant is to provide LAS members with financial support up to S\$5,000 per recipient and opportunities to learn and network at IFLA WLIC. Shirley will be attending the IFLA WLIC 2017 in Poland.

Being Part of the IFLA Global Vision Conversations

LAS represented our Singapore libraries in the IFLA Global Vision Regional Workshop in Jun 2017 organised by IFLA Headquarters.

Together with the National Library Board, LAS also hosted some 40 librarians from the Asia Oceania region taking part in the same IFLA Global Vision workshop on 28 June 2017.

In addition, two workshops were organised in September 2017 to determine our Singapore librarians' take on what the IFLA Global Vision should be. More than 200 librarians across Singapore's libraries took part in this effort in both the workshops and in the final voting survey.

Executive Library Management Programme

Fifteen participants from the National Library Board, Temasek Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education, Singapore Institute of Management, and the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine graduated from the ELMP in Sept 2017.

Investment Committee

A new investment committee was established to help monitor the LAS investments and to advise the Council on matters related to the investment. The inaugural Investment Committee is headed by Scott Davidson and has Cheryl Loo and Seow Hwee Ling as Committee members as well.

2018 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2017

LAS is privileged to honour Mr Koh Thong Ngee as a pioneering librarian in Singapore. Mr Koh had a career in academic libraries that spanned 32 years. He contributed to the Library Association of Singapore over a period of 16 years.

He joined the Nanyang University Library service in February 1960 as a Graduate Assistant in the Chinese Dept. He was appointed Head of Acquisitions soon after. From 1964 to 1972, he was appointed Deputy Librarian. He became the Librarian in 1973 until 1980. When University of Singapore and Nanyang University merged in August 1980, he was absorbed into the National University of Singapore (NUS) Library service and continued as Librarian. In 1983, he was concurrently appointed Head of Chinese Library. He was appointed Acting Chief Librarian of NUS Library from July 1991 and retired in 1992.

Mr Koh was concerned with the development and welfare of support staff in the NUS Libraries. During his tenure he saw to providing a good career path for the library attendants. In particular, he helped to promote a few eligible library attendants to the clerical grade. He also encouraged interracial interactions among staff. Those were the days when the library staff held parties to celebrate important festivals of each ethnic group like Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, and Deepavali. He also worked very closely with and supported the Union representatives in their various welfare efforts. He enjoyed mentoring the young librarians in NUS.

Improving library physical facilities was another area he worked on tirelessly. He was interested in how to better use the limited space the NUS Libraries had and achieved it with small-scale renovations over time. When the NUS Libraries received an additional space, he decided to use the limited space to build a single central storage facility to benefit all the libraries in NUS. With this central storage, each library freed up space to provide more seating areas for the users.

Mr Koh was active in the Library Association of Singapore. He was LAS president from 1973 to 1975. He was active on various LAS committees on censorship, constitution review, copyright, library education, library cooperation, and training from 1971 to 1987.

For his dedicated leadership and service to the library profession, LAS is privileged to honour Mr Koh Thong Ngee with the 2017 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award.

LAS Professional Service Award 2017

The Association recognised that Ms Caroline Pang exemplifies the spirit of entrepreneurship, collaboration, and leadership. She has contributed significantly to the Singapore library landscape by setting up three special libraries; Tanoto Library at INSEAD, Library at the National Cancer Centre, and the Medical Library at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), Nanyang Technological University. She is in the midst of setting up the Heritage Centre for LKCMedicine.

LAS Passion Award 2017

The award goes to Mr Feng Yikang from NUS Libraries. Although only having been a librarian for the past four years, Mr Feng Yikang has proven to be an invaluable asset to the library profession, making numerous novel, pioneering, and impactful contributions to the ever-evolving field of digital scholarship. Therefore, Mr Feng was accorded the LAS Passion Award 2017

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2017

The LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award was given to Ms Lim Hwee Ming. Ms Lim joined Singapore Management University (SMU) Libraries in June 2014 as a fresh graduate from the Nanyang Technological University Masters in Library and Information Science programme. Over the past few years, she contributed to a wide range of activities and services at SMU Libraries, including cataloguing of library resources and supporting all aspects of electronic resources management. She played an active role in the implementation and roll-out of the new Library Management and Discovery System in SMU.

LAS Overseas Library Professional Development Sponsorship 2017

The LAS Overseas Professional Development Sponsorship goes to Pattarin Kusolpalin, a Senior Librarian with NUS Libraries. She is active in participating in LAS activities. She is committed to improving teaching and knowledge transfer via a data-driven and research-based approach in information literacy. She attended the International Conference on Language, Education, Humanities, and Innovation in May 2018.

LAS-WLIC Grant 2017

This year's recipient is Edward Lim, who is currently working at New York University Shanghai. Edward was the past LAS Treasurer and also in the Training and Development Committee. He volunteered at the WLIC in Singapore.

Library School Scholarship 2017

There were two awards for 2017. They go to Ms Eunice Anthonyraj from National Library Board and Ms Noverinda Bella Ratmelia from the Nanyang Technological University Libraries.

Ms Anthonyraj has made significant contributions to bilingual literacy programmes for the young in Singapore as an Associate Librarian with the Public Libraries (Singapore).

The second recipient of the Scholarship Award is Ms Noverinda Bella Ratmelia joined Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Libraries as a full time paraprofessional while studying part-time for her bachelor degree in Information Technology from the University of Wollongong, Australia. After receiving her degree in 2015, she was offered the position of Assistant Librarian at NTU Libraries. She is now completing her MSc in Information Studies at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information in NTU.

First ever Speed Mentoring for LAS

The first ever Speed Mentoring Session (think "Speed Dating" but with senior/junior librarians on opposite sides) for LAS members was done in June 2018 involving six pairs of mentors & mentees.

First Asia Pacific Library & Information Conference (APLIC) jointly organised with ALIA & LIANZA.

The APLIC was jointly organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Library and Information Association of New Zealand (LIANZA), and LAS. Held in Gold Coast, Australia from 30 July to 3 August 2018, its organisation started more than a year ago with Council members, Judy Ng, Low Jiaxin, and Phoebe Lim being part of the organising committee. At the conference, President Samantha Ang exhorted conference attendees to do their part, using the Singaporean

Kallang Roar and Wave as an analogy of how this can only be done with everyone's cooperation. The Singapore party that supported the event included librarians from NLB, SMU, NTU, and NIE.

Professional Development Seminar with SMU

Jointly organised with the SMU Libraries, the two-day seminar in August 2018 attracted more than 80 participants including overseas librarians from Indonesia and Philippines. Topics discussed include design thinking, data visualisation, and career development. The seminar enjoyed the presence of Lisa Hinchliffe, Professor/Coordinator for Information Literacy Services and Instruction University Library, University of Illinois, who did the workshop on Information Literacy Training and Instructional Design Skills Toolkit.

First ever Nature Walk for LAS

A first of its kind, early Saturday morning on 22 September 2018, a nature walk was held in Labrador Park, where librarians were invited to wind down in nature, with art, poetry, and history.

First ever Webinar for LAS

A bold step pioneered through the efforts of the Training & Development committee brought about the inaugural LAS Webinar on 30 November 2018. A total of 67 unique attendees took part in this Webinar. Of which, through the collaboration with the Chinese American Librarians Association, we also attracted 12 overseas librarians to the discussion. Using the WebEx platform, the session managed to yield a 75% media attention-to-attention rating. This is based on the attendee's attentiveness which was based on their individual time in the session.

Hosting visiting Indian Librarians from the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators where some 30 visiting public librarians under the INELI, India programme visited the Singapore libraries from 12 to 15 November 2018. During their visit, they were given a welcome dinner jointly hosted by the National Library Board and LAS. Several LAS members were also on hand to play hosts to the Indian librarians.

2019 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2018

This was accorded to Ms Sylvia Yap.

LAS Professional Service Award 2018

Mrs Kiang-Koh Lai Lin, National Archives of Singapore

LAS Passion Award 2018

Ms Irine Tanudjaja, NUS Libraries

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2018

Ms Dong Danping, Singapore Management University

LAS Overseas Library Professional Development Sponsorship 2018

Ms Jenny Wong, Singapore Institute of Technology

Library School Scholarship 2018

Ms Carmen Wong, National Library Board

First round of conversations on LAS vision

Following the AGM in May 2018, a poll was sent to all LAS members in January 2019 for their opinion on the initial statements. Many suggestions were received on what LAS could consider adopting into these defining statements. The poll results gave a good basis of the sentiments of the members. A focus group facilitated on 23 Feb 2019 was also done to garner more suggestions and views from members. President Samantha led the discussions with attending members on the mission and vision statements. Through the conversation, the group decided that it was good enough to have just a vision statement that would galvanise members.

The LAS "Re-making Libraries" Conference 2019 was held on 19 September 2019 at the Lifelong Learning Institute with the theme "Innovate, Connect, and Transform".

2020

LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2019

This was accorded to Mr Choy Fatt Cheong, the longest running president of LAS.

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2019

Mr James Wong Hong Kang, NIE Library

LAS School Scholarship 2019

Ms Priscilla Lee Kai Ning, Nanyang Polytechnic

Ms Mardhiah Mahamood, National Library Board

LAS-WLIC Grant 2019

Ms Low Jiaxin, Monetary Authority of Singapore

Mrs Yeo Pin Pin, Singapore Management University

Thank you to the APBSLG (SG) group for sponsoring the following awards for 2019.

LAS-APBSLG (SG) Professional Service Award 2019

Mrs Lee Cheng Ean, NUS Libraries

LAS-APBSLG (SG) Passion Award 2019

Ms Goh Su Nee, NTU Libraries

LAS Conference *Re-Making Libraries: Innovate, Connect, and Transform*,
19 September 2019

LAS as the official institution overseeing the Workforce Skills
Qualifications (WSQ) framework for Library and Information Services
May 2020