

2016 LAS LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

ISABEL YEO

Mrs. Isabel Yeo had a distinguished career spanning over three decades in public, special, and academic libraries, including heading three libraries and the Library Association of Singapore (LAS).

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree from the then University of Singapore, she joined the National Library's (NL) Children Services as a trainee librarian. She went on to study librarianship in New Zealand under an award sponsored by the Colombo Plan Scholarship. After returning from New Zealand, Isabel continued to work at the NL's Central Children's Service, Reference and then headed NL's Microfilm Unit before leaving in 1979 to lead the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) Library. After leaving MTI, she became the Chief Librarian of the Straits Times Editorial Library, where she remained for ten years.

From serving in public and special libraries, Isabel moved into the academic sphere as Head of Library 2 at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) from 1991 to 1994. Upon the retirement of Mr. Ng Soo Kwee, Head Librarian of the National Institute of Education (NIE) Library, Isabel was appointed as his successor, and led the Library from December 1994 until her retirement in September 2009. During this period, she oversaw many transformations, including the significant shift from print to e-resources in the late 1990s, the memorable re-location from the Bukit Timah Campus to the current Yunnan Garden Campus in 2000, the conceptualisation of an IT-enabled collaborative learning space cum café in the early 2000s, and the provision of seamless digital library services in the mid-2000s. Isabel was also instrumental in the creation of two special collections at NIE Library: the C J Koh Collection, which focuses on teacher education and teaching methods, and the Singapore Educational Resources (SEDU) Collection, which serves as an archive for materials related to Singapore education.

Isabel was very active in the LAS throughout her career, holding multiple positions on the LAS Council and committees. During the 1980s, she served in the following capacity: Hon. Secretary, Editor for *Singapore Libraries*, Joint Standing Committee Member on Bibliographical and Library Cooperation, Member of the Library and Information Research Group (LIRG), PPM/LAS, School Library Section and Chairperson of the Programmes Committee and Special Libraries Committee. In 1991/92, she was Vice-President of the LAS Council, and President from 1995-97. During her term as President, the LAS Council initiated a popular scheme enabling members to enjoy discount privileges at participating outlets upon producing their LAS membership card. As President of LAS, Isabel was also an ex-officio member of the National Library Board's (NLB) Manpower Advisory Committee, and was nominated to represent the LAS on the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS).

For her dedicated leadership and service to the library profession, LAS is privileged to honour Isabel Yeo with the 2016 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award