

2016 LAS PASSION AWARD

RANEETHA RAJARATNAM

Raneetha Rajaratnam has blossomed from being a children's librarian to become the Deputy Director overseeing Children and Teen's services in Singapore's public libraries.

Some of Raneetha's achievements in recent years include spearheading the Read@School programme to encourage a whole school reading culture which motivates all primary and secondary students to read for pleasure through a vast array of creative and customised reading activities, the development of an online reading platform, and the introduction of awards to recognize creativity and best practices for cultivating reading in preschools, primary and secondary schools.

She has also overseen the development of new teen's services at the new Pasir Ris Public Library, including the creation of a teen only Inspiring Readers Society, upcoming services for tweens at Sengkang Public Library, and a very popular Book Bugs tweens reading incentive programme across public libraries.

Raneetha's devotion to continuous learning is well recognized as is her relentless reading of Junior and Young Adult books, which allows her to remain current in these areas. She generously shares what she learns with others, as evidenced by the innovative services that her team develops. At the same time she has taken the initiative to upgrade the skills of library staff by launching a pilot skills enhancement programme which involved redesigning their jobs and building competencies to help align staff with new expectations and services.

Aside from developing services and staff development, Raneetha is also an accomplished speaker on children's literature, children's services and reading for children and teens. She is often invited to speak at various platforms including IFLA, the Asian Festival of Children's Content, and the Ministry of Education (MOE). She is also frequently asked to introduce NLB's children's services to international visitors.

Raneetha has demonstrated dedication, innovation, and exceptional service to the children and teens of Singapore, along with unfettered enthusiasm, knowledge of children's content and strong passion and belief in what she does.

LAS is delighted to honour Raneetha Rajaratnam with the 2016 LAS Passion Award.