

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021 - 2022



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope that you are healthy, happy, and well.

As we continue to find ways to improve our library services so that our users are able to rely on us at all times, we need to continuously keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to ensure that our colleagues are not suffering emotionally and mentally from unnecessary stress.

As many will know, I have been discussing this issue on a local and global scale as well as having written opinion pieces about it as this is especially important to me. Given the number of people who attended as well as submitted (albeit anonymous) questions during our session with my friends from Mental Act SG, this is and will continue to be a pertinent topic.

On a brighter note, we commemorated our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with PPM by publishing a book that highlights the various Presidents from both Associations up to the last President in 2019 (*\*Dang\* I missed the cut!*) which gives a fruitful and insightful look at what it was like to be a President of either association throughout the years.

I also had the honour of being the Chair of the LAS-PPM joint virtual conference that was held on 6 October 2021 together with my Publications, Infocomm and IT, and Training and Development Chairs (as well as their teams). We worked with the PPM Council members and it was very well subscribed. Not only did we have participants from Singapore and Malaysia, but we had international sign-ups as well. It was a wonderful day of open sharing and discussions. I was so pleased that I could be a part of this momentous occasion.

We deliberated on whether to have a physical or hybrid AGM this year. We decided to have another virtual AGM as we did not want to take a risk, especially since the numbers are still rather high. Hopefully, we will be able to have more face-to-face sessions in Q3 2022 and I will get the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible.

Until then, I look forward to your continuous support of the Association. This is particularly important, especially in terms of participating not just in the activities, but also being part of the committees, participating in surveys, and renewing your membership. If we want to ensure the sustainability of the Association, the only way we can do this is with your help.

Until next time, keep well and stay safe.

Excelsior!



Dr Sadie-Jane Nunis  
President, LAS

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2021/2022



Sadie-Jane Nunis  
President  
Singapore Institute of Management



Tan Chui Peng  
Immediate Past President  
National Library Board



Soh Lin Li  
Vice President & Asst Hon Sec  
National Library Board



Lim Puay Ling  
Honorary Secretary  
National Library Board



Ng Hui Ling  
Honorary Treasurer  
National Library Board



Rindra Ramli  
Council Member  
Yale-NUS College



Shameem Nilofar Maideen  
Council Member  
Singapore Management University



Kong Leng Foong  
Council Member  
National Library Board



Noverinda Bella Ratmelia  
Council Member  
Singapore Management University

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

- Soh Lin Li, Chair (covering)
- Gee Miaw Miin

There was a slight increase of about two per cent in terms of membership for 2021. The table below shows the membership summary as of 31 December 2021. The total membership count with payment received in 2021 stood at 299. Additionally, a total of 13 new applications were received and eight Associate members were upgraded to Professional membership in 2021.

The committee has worked closely with the IT Committee to successfully transit the membership database to the new LAS Membership Application/Renewal Platform in December 2021. The membership functions pertaining to new applications, renewals, or updates were migrated to Microsoft Forms. Members had started using the new LAS Membership Platform for renewal and application of new membership. They can also access it and edit their membership information and profile.

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Professional</b>	105	117	11%
<b>Associate</b>	44	34	-23%
<b>Affiliate</b>	1	1	0%
<b>Life</b>	97	97	0%
<b>Honorary</b>	2	2	0%
<b>Professional (nonworking)</b>	4	6	50%
<b>Institution (Libraries)</b>	27	29	7%
<b>Institution (Schools)</b>	10	11	10%
<b>Institution (Others)</b>	3	2	-33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>2%</b>

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

- Rindra Ramli (Chair)
- Malarvele Ilangovan
- James Wong Hong Kang
- James See
- Vincent Wong

### Summary of activities:

The Training and Development Committee worked to provide avenues of sharing and professional development in the midst of the COVID-19 situation, continuing from the previous year.

The committee made a proposal to LAS Council Members and the Council of Chief Librarians (CCL) members to discontinue with the Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) programme in 2021. Among the reasons cited were manpower and logistical issues. Council agreed to this due to the reasons cited. TnD followed up by informing the SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) our decision on this.

### LAS–NLB Professional Sharing Session 2021 (Virtual) (30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 2pm to 5pm)



Held via Zoom, this collaboration between LAS and NLB was themed after **Breaking the Barriers of Time and Space: The Dawning of the New Age of Libraries**. As the world moves on toward a post-covid norm, Libraries have not sat on their laurels, and have continued to innovate and break new ground.

These efforts were shared by presenters from five different institutions, including the below (in order of presentation):

- Singapore Polytechnic
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore Institute of Technology
- Nanyang Technological University
- National Library Board

The eight presenters shared on various topics, from implementing MOOCs during the pandemic, to adopting new Project Management practices, to even the use of automation and robotics in library operations.

A total of 100 participants tuned in via Zoom to hear and engage in a robust Q&A with the presenters, facilitating new partnerships and development opportunities across institutions.

### LAS–PPM Joint Conference 2021 (Virtual) (6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 10am to 5pm)

A joint collaboration with Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia (PPM) and the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) to commemorate our anniversary, a joint conference was held in October, that had a theme of **Collab | Camaraderie | Commune**.

The conference was chaired by the current LAS President. The committee was made up of the Publications Chair, Infocomm and IT Chair, as well as the Training and Development Chair with this committee together with members from the PPM side.

Apart from presenters from Singapore and Malaysia, we also received numerous contributions/presenters from across the region including Indonesia and Hong Kong. Since it was held via ZOOM, we could connect with a more international audience as the presenters shared the latest news and developments in inter-library collaboration and support in their various communities.

A total of **453 participants** attended the session from across the globe.

## PROGRAMMES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

- Shameem Nilofar Maideen (Chair)
- Rajendra Munoo
- Chai Yee Xin
- Devika Sangaram

### Summary of activities:

The following are the activities carried out during the period Aug 2021 – Feb 2022. The activities comprised of webinars across a wide spectrum of thought-provoking issues.

#### Let's Talk About Mental Health (27th August 2021 – 3.30 PM to 4.30 PM)

Covid-19 and its impact on nations worldwide has put mental health and wellness into sharp focus. It's increasingly becoming clear that self-care is a public health necessity and mental wellness is a collective social responsibility. So how can Libraries and Librarians help?

39 participants signed up to find out more from our invited speakers, Ms. Priyahnisha (Nisha) and Mr Devanantthan (Devan), founders of Mental ACT, Singapore. Mental ACT is a non-profit organisation that focuses on providing programmes and services that cater to the mental health of our local communities. Mr. Devan is a social worker and Ms. Nisha is a counsellor. Both of them have more than 5 years of experience working in the field of Mental health, suicide intervention and community work.

The speakers touched on various aspects of mental health, and it turned out to be a very engaging session.

#### Conversations in Transformational Leadership (11th November 2021 – 2.00 PM to 3.30 PM)

In November, the community was invited to engage in conversation on different aspects of Transformational Leadership.

The first speaker Mr. Gene Tan, Assistant Chief Executive, NLB, shared the recently launched Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025 (LAB25), a blueprint for a five-year transformational journey to reimagine libraries and archives through innovation and experimentation with partners and the community.



The next speaker Ms. Kim Underhill, Co-founder of She Brilliance, shared her thoughts on New Age Leadership and what it takes to become an Effective, Influential, and Inspiring Leader.

**63 participants** signed up to hear our speakers engage in an inspiring and thought-provoking conversation.

### Understanding Dyslexia (12th January 2022, 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM)

Steven Sim, a Senior Educational Therapist with Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) since 2015, and a valuable member of the DAS outreach team, joined us for an online webinar to increase general awareness of dyslexia amongst teachers, parents and the general public. The session touched on the broad areas below -

- What is Dyslexia?
- Are there different types of Dyslexia?
- What are some of the support systems currently available to support dyslexic learners?

**33 participants** signed up for the event, which also had an engaging Q & A at the end of the session.

### Amendments to Copyright Law (18th February 2022, 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM)

To further our understanding of Singapore's new Copyright Act 2021, LAS held a webinar in collaboration with Licensing Executive Society (Singapore). LES Singapore is a non-profit organization formed with the objective of promoting the commercialization of Intellectual Property. It is a chapter of Licensing Executive Society International. The speaker Mr. George Hwang, is the current chairman of the Copyright Committee of Licensing Executive Society International, and he shared his expertise with the community on understanding the recent amendments to the Copyright Law.

**133 participants** signed up and engaged in a robust conversation on the implications of the new amendments.

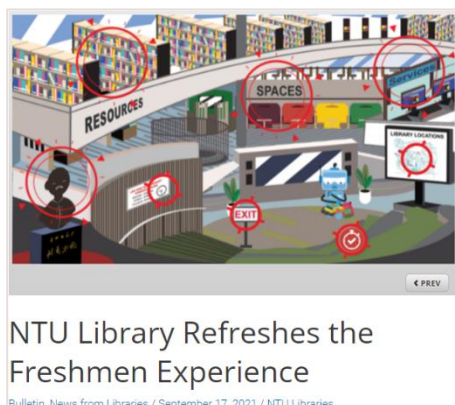
## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

- Kong Leng Foong (Chair)
- Phoebe Lim Choon Lan
- Charmaine Tan
- Tan Minli, Mindy
- Lo Wan Ni
- Goh Yu Mei
- Nadia Arianna Ramli

### LAS Bulletin

17 articles were published between April 2021 to March 2022. Highlights include the [revamped NUS Libraries](#), [understanding Indian names for cataloguing](#), and the [Pandemic IL series](#).



## Singapore Journal of Library and Information Management (SJLIM)

### SJLIM Editorial Board

A new editorial board was formed in 2021 with the following members:

- Dr Sadie-Jane Nunis (Editor-in-Chief)
- Kong Leng Foong
- Jamila Osman
- Lim Lee Ping

### SJLIM survey

A survey was conducted in September/October to find out members' preferences for topics and frequency of publication. A total of 58 people responded.

We found that reading preferences have relatively similar numbers across topics with the top three being 'Best Practices', 'New Library Technologies' and 'User Engagement'. The top three writing preferences were 'User Engagement', 'Best Practices' and 'Collaborations'. Topics like 'New Technologies' (one of the top three in reading preferences), 'Sustainability' and 'Digital Scholarship' saw a big drop in numbers for writing preferences.

The journal will remain an annual publication with thematic calls every two years beginning with 2022.

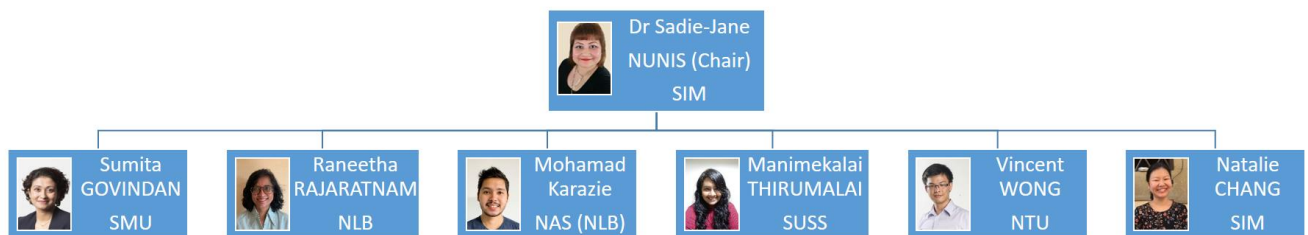
### 2022 call for papers

A call for papers was disseminated to members and via LAS's social media platforms on 9 February 2022. The theme for 2022 is "The Post-Pandemic Library Era".

## LAS AWARDS PANEL

### Panel Chair and Members:

- Dr Sadie-Jane Nunis (Chair)
- Mohamad Karazie
- Natalie Chang
- Vincent Wong
- Raneetha Rajaratnam
- Sumita Govindan
- Manimekalai Thirumalai



### Summary of activities:

The 2021 LAS Award winners are:

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2021 is awarded to **Samantha Seah Siew Cheng, NTU.**

LAS Passion Award 2021 is awarded to **Rebecca Maniates, SMU.**

LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2021 has been accorded to **Tay Ai Cheng.**

There were no nominations for 2021 for the LAS Professional Service Award 2021, LAS-WLIC Grant category, or the LAS Library School Scholarship category.

The panel is currently deliberating the relevance of some of the awards and will be updating with a proposal at the upcoming AGM 2022.

## WEB AND IT COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

- Bella Ratmelia (Chair)
- Sun Shengbo
- Samantha Seah Siew Cheng

### Summary of activities:

#### LAS Member Portal

The rollout of the membership system was previously announced during the AGM 2021. The member portal was to be launched in Q2 of 2021, but due to the vacancy of Membership Committee Chair position, the rollout was delayed to Q4 2021 when the current LAS Vice President momentarily covers the membership portfolio.

The new portal comes with the following features for members:

- Online membership application
- Online membership renewal
- Members will be able to update their own personal details
- Online payment for new membership/renewals
- Renewal reminder for members
- Automatic invoice for online payment

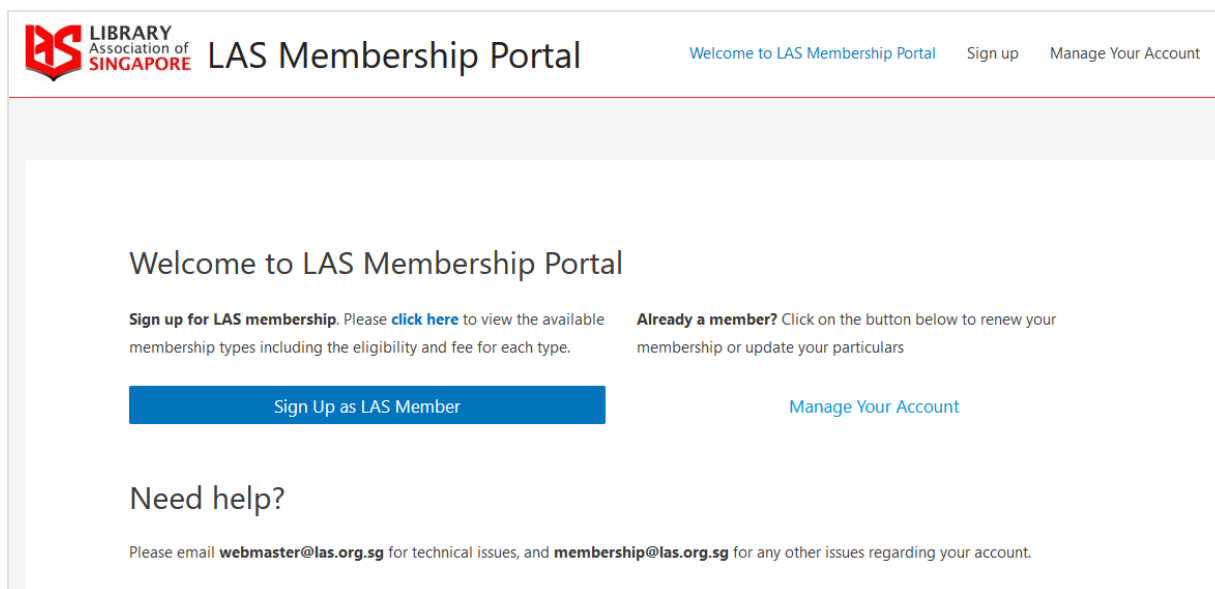
It also comes with the following features for LAS council that will make managing membership much more efficient:

- Dashboard for a quick overview of membership and financial stats
- Easy generation of invoices
- Mass email members (all members or a selection of members)
- Log of all membership activities, including renewals, payments, profile updates, etc.)

A few notes on the member portal:

- The member portal does not save the credit card details of the members
- Only the Membership Chair and IT Chair has full access to the portal
- The Honorary Secretary has partial access to messaging/email features

The member portal is available at: <https://www.las.org.sg/wp/member-portal/>



The screenshot shows the LAS Membership Portal homepage. At the top left is the LAS logo with the text 'LIBRARY Association of SINGAPORE'. To its right is the title 'LAS Membership Portal'. Further right are navigation links: 'Welcome to LAS Membership Portal', 'Sign up', and 'Manage Your Account'. The main content area features a heading 'Welcome to LAS Membership Portal'. Below this are two columns of text. The left column says 'Sign up for LAS membership. Please [click here](#) to view the available membership types including the eligibility and fee for each type.' Below this is a blue button labeled 'Sign Up as LAS Member'. The right column says 'Already a member? Click on the button below to renew your membership or update your particulars' and has a blue link labeled 'Manage Your Account'. At the bottom, there is a 'Need help?' section with contact information: 'Please email [webmaster@las.org.sg](mailto:webmaster@las.org.sg) for technical issues, and [membership@las.org.sg](mailto:membership@las.org.sg) for any other issues regarding your account.'

### LAS Jobs Board

For the period of March 2021 to February 2022, the LAS Jobs Board (<https://www.las.org.sg/wp/jobs/>) has received and published **45** library or library-related job advertisements. This is approximately a 70 per cent increase from the previous period of March 2020 to February 2021, where the Jobs Board received and published **26** job advertisements.

## 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** The Association held its conference on the theme *Librarians, Strengthening, Moving Forward* from 29 to 31 January 2007.
- 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 three 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 8-9 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 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 2) training programme for library support staff on *Support General Reference and Information Enquiry*. This was the first of the 5 competency based programmes which form the WSQ Higher Certificate in Library and Information Services. All 5 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.

LAS initiated a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter (<http://facebook.com/las.org.sg>; [http://twitter.com/las\\_org\\_sg](http://twitter.com/las_org_sg)) in September 2011.

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

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. The website could be viewed at <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 the better 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 Aug 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.

"Libraries for Tomorrow" Conference 2014 was held on 14 October 2014 at 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 Mar 2015
- Storytelling cum activities to the children with hearing impaired and children with visually impaired at the Lighthouse School held on 12 Mar 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 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 9-14 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 & 9 June 2015. The Workshop will is 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 (1955-2015): 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 3 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 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 recognize 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 recognized 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 \$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 \$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 AsiaOceania region taking part in the same IFLA Global Vision workshop on 28 June 2017.

In addition, two workshops were organized 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

15 participants from the National Library Board, Temasek Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Institute of Technical Education 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 1960 February 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, 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 recognized 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 6 pairs of mentors & mentees.

### First Asia Pacific Library & Information Conference (APLIC) Jointly Organized with ALIA & LIANZA

The APLIC was jointly organized 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 organizing 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 per cent media attention-to-attention rating. This is based on the attentiveness of the attendee based on their individual time in the session.

#### Hosting visiting Indian Librarians from the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators.

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, was the recipient for this award.

LAS Passion Award 2018

Ms Irine Tanudjaja from NUS Libraries was the award recipient for this.

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2018

Ms Dong Danping from SMU Library received this award.

LAS Overseas Library Professional Development Sponsorship 2018

Ms Jenny Wong from SIT Library was the proud recipient of this award.

Library School Scholarship 2018

Ms Carmen Wong from NLB received the Library School Scholarship 2018.

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 held 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 galvanize 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

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

## **2021**

LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2020

Mr Idris bin Rashid Khan Surattee

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2020

Ms Sarah Ruslan, Yale-NUS Libraries

LAS Professional Service Award 2020

Ms Joan Wee Jee Foon, SIT Library

LAS Passion Award 2020  
Mr Jacky Wong Kae Perng, NIE Library

There were no nominations for 2020 for the LAS-WLIC Grant category or the LAS Library School Scholarship category.

65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative E-book

In 2020, the committee worked on a special commemorative E-book titled The LAS & PPM President' Journey: Celebrating 65 years of Librarianship to celebrate LAS and PPM's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The book was released in May 2021.

LAS-PPM Joint Conference

LAS-PPM Joint Conference was held virtually on 6 Oct 2021, chaired by President Dr Sadie-Jane Nunis together with the Publications Chair, Infocomm and IT Chair, as well as the Training and Development Chair (with this committee) as well as several members from the PPM Association Council. The theme was Collab | Camaraderie | Commune. A total of **453 attendees globally** attended the session.

## 2022

LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2021  
Ms Tay Ai Cheng

LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award 2021  
Ms Samantha Seah Siew Cheng, NTU Libraries

LAS Passion Award 2021  
Ms Rebecca Maniates, SMU Libraries

There were no nominations for 2021 for the LAS Professional Service Award 2021, LAS-WLIC Grant category, or the LAS Library School Scholarship category.