

- 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 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 8-9 May 2008.
- The LAS Professional Development Scheme was launched on 25 August 2008.
- 2009** 136 LAS professional members from the first 5 batches were given the Practicing 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 Samatha 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-held-library-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.

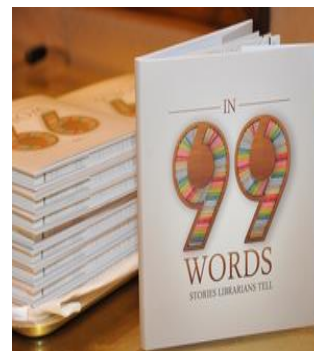
The LAS Lifetime Contribution Award 2013 was presented to Mr Ramachandran Rasu from National Book Development Council of Singapore

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

@<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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



In conjunction with LAS' 60<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 Jiabin 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 Asia-Oceania 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.

**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 Novinda 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 para-professional 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 Phobe 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.

**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 raing. 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.