

MINUTES OF THE LAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2018 AT THE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE SINGAPORE, 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM

Members

1	Caroline Pang	31	Joseph Kennedy	61	Pattarin
2	Caroline Phua Choon Kheng	32	Judy Teo	62	Phoebe Lim
3	Catherine Tan	33	Kalimuthu Suselarani	63	Poh Pang Hui
4	Chai Yee Xin	34	Kamaludeen Mohamed Rafi	64	Priyanka Sharma
5	Chan Soo Loi (Mary Tan)	35	Kan Sok Cheng	65	Puspa Yeow
6	Cher Sen Keuk	36	Khoo Ai Ling	66	Rajen MUNOO
7	Chong Yee Ming	37	Koey Keng Kiat Albert	67	Reena Kandoth
8	Chow Chai Khim	38	Koh Thong Ngee	68	Ronald Milne
9	Choy Fatt Cheong	39	Koh Weimin Joanne	69	Samantha Ang
10	Daniel Chan Thye Seng	40	Kong Leng Foong	70	Samantha Seah Siew Cheng
11	Edmund Lee	41	Krist Chan	71	Sarah Ruslan
12	Eunice Anthonyraj	42	Law Loo Shien	72	Scott Davidson
13	Feng Yikang	43	Leo Joon Meng	73	Shameem Nilofar Maideen
14	Flora Bay	44	Lim Hwee Ming	74	Sheila Ho
15	Fong Ying Yi	45	Lim Kok Eng	75	Sim Chuin Peng
16	Galvin Soh	46	Lim Siu Chen	76	Sun Shengbo
17	Gee Miaw Miin	47	Lin Yung Mei	77	Susanna Marie Sim Oi Haw
18	Gene Tan	48	Lo Wan Ni	78	Tan Chui Peng
19	Gulcin Cribb	49	Loh Hui Hong	79	Tse Ming Wai
20	Hazel Loh	50	Loh Mee Lan	80	V Somasundram
21	Ho Soo Miang	51	Low Jiaxin	81	valerie Siew
22	Ian Yap	52	Low Ke Khoon	82	Vincent Wong
23	Idris Rashid Khan Surattee	53	Lynette Lim	83	Wan Ho Wah
24	Iftikhar Hayat	54	Malarvele Ilangovan	84	Wong Kae Perng
25	Jami So	55	Melody Chin	85	Wu Yao Yao
26	Jaslin Koh	56	Ng Chee Yong	86	Yeoh Seok Kwan
27	Jennifer Gan	57	Norain Binte Akil	87	Yuan Ye
28	Jenny Wong	58	Noverinda Bella Ratmelia	88	Yuen Foon Yee, Caroline
29	Joan Wee	59	Nursyeha	89	Zubaidah Mohsen
30	Joanna Yu	60	Ong Hong Kiat		

Institutional Members

1. Tay Sok Cheng	2. Doris Goh
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1 President's Address

- 1.1 Ms Samantha Ang expressed her thanks to the members for coming to the Annual General Meeting. She shared that this was an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the seven award winners as well as to honour the lifetime achievements made by a pioneer librarian.
- 1.2 Ms Ang appealed to members to encourage their respective institutions to contribute actively to the call for updating or being included in the IFLA Library Map of the World project. This is needed to ascertain how many libraries there are in Singapore, and this information will be openly available for anyone in the world to reference.
- 1.3 Ms Ang shared that the next Libraries of Tomorrow Conference will be done in 2019, as the conference focus this year is on the Asia Pacific Library and Information Congress held in Gold Coast, Australia from 31 July to 2 Aug 2018, as part of LAS' tripartite agreement with the Australia Library and Information Association (ALIA) and The Library for Information Association of New Zealand (LIANZA). Ms Ang encouraged all members to try and attend the APLIC as well.
- 1.4 Ms Ang also said that she has secured special rates for bus transportation and hotel accommodation for librarians interested in going to the upcoming IFLA WLIC held in Kuala Lumpur. She asked that anyone keen to take up this offer contact her personally.
- 1.5 Ms Ang wrapped up her speech by reminding all that librarians can make the difference. She appealed to all to step forward to contribute back to the association and profession. As a professional association, Ms Ang reminded all that the council cannot work alone. With the move to craft a mission and vision for LAS, she invited everyone to give their input to refining the mission and vision statements. She also said that the upcoming year would see many more activities being organized for the coming year, hence it would be to members' benefits to join in.

2 Minutes of Last AGM Held on 13 May 2017

- 2.1 Ms Ang updated that the investment committee has been formed since the last AGM. She added that the returns of the investment made could be channeled into funding training and development activities. The investment committee will also suggest other uses for the returns to the Council for its approval.
- 2.2 On the implementation of the constitution, it was clarified that the Constitution has not been amended. Mr Choy Fatt Cheong suggested that the proposed Constitution as a whole should be presented at the next AGM for a formal approval of the amendments. Ms Ang agreed to this suggestion. Ms Khoo Ai Ling reminded the Council to have the changes of the Constitution lodged into the Registry of Society when they are approved.
- 2.3 The minutes of last AGM held on 14 May 2017 was passed with amendments as suggested. It was proposed by Ms Gee Miaw Miin and seconded by Ms Low Ke Khoon.

3 Matters Arising from Previous AGM

	Matters Arising	Action By	Action Taken & Status
8.13	Mr Yit highlighted that the LAS Council could be empowered to appoint committees unless the Council was seeking approval to authorise the committee to make decisions on behalf of the LAS.	Council	An investment committee has been set up with effect from April 2018. It is empowered only to make recommendations to the Council on the investment portfolio. The Council will have the final approval to make any changes to the investment portfolio, and authorised signatories from the Council will sign any changes made to the portfolio on LAS' behalf.
8.15	Ms Gee Miaw Miin suggested the in-coming Council to look at some plans on how to spend the funds following the investment so as to optimise usage and gain.	Council	The Council has only set up the Investment Committee in April 2018. It has not yet discussed the utilisation of investment returns. This will be part of the 2018/2019 plan for the year to study the utilisation of the investment gains.

4 Annual Report 2017

- 4.1 Ms Ang explained that the Annual Report 2017 was made more lightweight by removing the milestones of the Association. Arising from the concerns that the privacy of members were possibly invaded, the Council elected to not include the membership listing in the Annual Report. The Council explained that this was to try and comply with the Personal Data Protection Act.
- 4.2 Over the changes in the Annual Report not including the names of all members, several members questioned whether the Council was being overly cautious of the PDPA. Ms Khoo urged the Council to verify this with the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC).
- 4.3 Mr Choy said that members ought to be proud to be listed as professional librarians, and that committee members' names should be captured in the Annual Report as a record of their involvement for the year. He also said that the Terms of Reference and the Constitution should be in. Removal of the members' listing from the Annual Report as well as on the website would make it difficult for hiring institution to verify if any potential hires were indeed librarians associated with LAS.
- 4.4 Ms Caroline Phua shared that the Council should adopt a consistent approach of members' listing as this also concerned members who were listed under the PDS.
- 4.5 Ms Ang agreed that the Council will do further checks and will revert on the situation with the members at the next AGM.
- 4.6 In addition, there was a question on how LAS awards were being made and whether the Council necessarily awarded them every year. Ms Ang shared that the basis of the awards would be read out to all members prior to the award ceremony later in the programme. She also clarified that it was not a must-have to give all available awards on hand. This would only be given if the award panel recommended it to the Council for approval.

- 4.7 In view of the many disagreement to the way the Annual Report has been presented, it was not passed. Members asked that it be re-done and re-presented at the next year's AGM as a separate report from the 2018/2019 report.

5 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Audited Financial Statement

- 5.1.1 Ms So presented on the audited financial statements. She shared that the decrease in LAS revenue came about mainly as 2017 is a non-conference year for LAS. From the training organized by LAS, a modest revenue of \$88K was achieved.
- 5.1.2 However, the association's expenses were considered higher than the previous year, primarily because the quantity of the training programmes doubled.
- 5.1.3 Overall, the nett profit is \$23K, which means that LAS still posted positive monetary returns. Ms So pointed out that during the previous year, the Council did not award any scholarship sponsorships. However, in for the financial year being assessed, two people have been awarded scholarships. This accounts for \$10K of funds being utilized.
- 5.1.4 A question was posed on the \$1 donation reflected on the financial statement by Mr Edmund Lee. Ms So explained that this was donated by Mr Jacky Wong who wanted to test the paypal donation process.

5.2 Investment Committee

- 5.2.1 A new investment committee has been set up to advise the Council members on the investment portfolio for LAS. The members are Mr Scott Davidson, Ms Cheryl Loo and Ms Seow Hwee Ling.
- 5.2.2 All the investment committee members will only serve in an advisory capacity to the Council. The final decision for making any changes (if any) to the investment portfolio will be undertaken by the Council members after it receives the investment committee's recommendation.

- 5.3 The financial statements were proposed for approval by Ms Gulcin Cribb and seconded by Mr Edmund Lee.

6 Auditor for LAS Financial Matters

- 6.1 The meeting also sought for endorsement to re-appoint the current auditor, HLB Atrede LLP for the 2018 Fiscal Year.
- 6.2 Mr Ian Yap proposed the existing auditor to be re-appointed and this was seconded by Ms Hazel Loh.

7 Membership report

- 7.1 Ms Melody Chin reported on the membership figures. She shared the good news that there was a 7% increase in numbers from the professional category. There was, however, a decline for institution members as several had not yet renewed their memberships.
- 7.2 Ms Pushpa Yeow queried why the membership revenue did not reflect the increase in membership numbers.

7.3 Ms So, as treasurer, clarified that this was because some of the payments were made late and thus would only be accounted for in the next year's financial statements.

7.4 Ms Chin also explained that there are also differing membership prices being applied for the different membership types.

8 Training and Development report

8.1 Ms Low shared about the training and development courses that were organized for the year. Overall there was good participation. She saw training as a good way to engage members, and that members often found common grounds for discussion during training. In the coming year, the focus for training would be more attuned to the needs of the professional librarians. Activities like focus groups will be organized to ascertain the training needs of the librarians. SMU and LAS will be co-organizing a new librarians conference for librarians who have just joined the profession. She encouraged everyone to spread the news about this conference to new librarians that they know.

8.2 Ms Low shared that as the only library association in Singapore, it was important that we have a strong say in terms of how we train our members. Therefore, non-essential aspects of the training organization such as logistics and administrative support are potential areas that can be outsourced to third party course supporters. Currently the Council is in talks with Temasek Polytechnic to do microlearning on their available learning platform.

8.3 Ms Caroline Phua's questions, Ms Ang shared that the revenue derived from training came partially from the organization of the UX courses. Ms Low also shared that one last round of Workskills Qualification (WSQ) training of 5 modules will be organized for the coming year. The contents for the WSQ were still relevant.

8.4 Ms Khoo Ai Ling pointed out that the WSQ was also considered onerous because of the many assessments that were required. She opined that the Council would do well to consider having stackable learning modules made available for training. These should also be for librarians and not just library officers.

8.5 Ms Low shared that this was the intent as the training and development committee was looking into the possibility of realizing micro-learning as alternatives to the WSQ.

8.6 Mr Idris urged the Council to consider how it ought to strengthen the training structure. He opined that the Council will do well to tap into various government training funds and schemes without making Council members run the training. He also raised his concerns that the Association was being left out at national level representations in areas that ought to concern librarians, such as the Select Committee on fake news.

8.7 Ms Ang shared that the Council did think about doing sub-contracting of training, and that talks were in progress with Temasek Polytechnic to see how micro-learning could be effected. She disagreed with Mr Idris' statement concerning the representation of views on fake news, as she felt that while LAS did not make any official statement, librarians and libraries, in general, did respond to the situation.

9 Publications

9.1 Ms Caroline Phua questioned why volume 47 of the SJLIM only appeared in May 2018, and with only 2 articles.

9.2 Ms Phoebe Lim explained that there was a change of scope of the articles to reflect only Singapore and Asian libraries. In addition, there was a change in the editorial team, which did not leave much time to recruit for more content.

9.3 Ms Pryanka, the newly appointed editor, shared that she will be proposing more new changes to make the journal more relevant to members. One change would be to move away from a strictly academic format to encourage more content participation.

10 Website and IT Report

10.1 Mr Jacky Wong reported that as part of a proactive IT security preventive exercise, the committee migrated the LAS website, email and applications to a more secured & reliable web hosting provider in May 2018. Following the migration, LAS website and applications security are enhanced through SSL encryption, proactive scanning, patching and monitoring. The committee will be working on enhancing the aesthetic of the LAS website and implementing a membership system to improve the efficiency of the membership management process.

11 Programmes and Social Report

11.1 Ms Krist Chan reported that there were 12 activities organized for LAS members in the year (May 2018 – May 2019). She shared that 7 more activities will be planned from June to December 2018, including social programmes and visits to innovative organisations.

12 Sharing by 2 librarians

12.1 Mr Galvin Soh shared about his experience at the 2017 Library Marketing and Communications Conference in the United States, in key areas including audience engagement, user-centered design and data-driven decision making.

12.2 Ms Joan Wee presented the learnings she had from attending the IFLA Conference in 2016. She shared how excited she was to be in close contact with librarians from around the world, and encouraged more people to go for the IFLA. She also attended Business section presentations and found the experience to be an eye-opener.

13 Presentation of Awards

2017 LAS Overseas Professional Development Sponsorship

13.1 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. She is looking forward to sharing her experience in an upcoming LAS sharing session and contribute to LAS Bulletin.

LAS-WLIC Grant

13.2 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. He will share what he learns at WLIC 2018 through short video presentations.

2017 Library School Scholarship

- 13.3 There are 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).

Since joining the Public Libraries in 2013, Ms Anthonyraj has been instrumental in rolling out new Early Literacy initiatives, specifically in the Tamil Language. She kick-started the Book Ninjas' Club, which is a bilingual reading intervention programme aimed at cultivating a love of reading in the mother tongue language among pre-schoolers, in the libraries. She has nurtured strong and strategic partnerships with organisations, such as the Singapore Indian Development Association and People's Association, to add variety to the suite of Tamil language programmes that cater to public library customers.

Ms Anthonyraj demonstrates a strong commitment to promote reading among the young as can be seen from her diverse portfolio. In addition to conceptualising and executing programmes, she is a Selector of Tamil books for children at all the Public Libraries. She goes the extra mile to capitalise on her knowledge of Tamil children's literature by curating content for library publications such as Timeless Tales, Early Literacy Toolkit and Little Explorer Lost At Sea and by building awareness of the collection among a wider audience.

Committed to promoting a love of reading in children and at the same time cognizant of the need to slowly help them become familiar with new technology, Ms Anthonyraj introduced eDevices for children and their families at some of the Public Libraries. Ms Anthonyraj's efforts were successful in helping to encourage reading and learning through eContent and enhancing digital interaction through eDevices among her intended audience.

Therefore, for her accomplishments, thus far, and with high expectations for even greater achievements in the years to come, Ms Eunice Anthonyraj was awarded with the LAS Library School Scholarship.

In her acceptance speech, Ms Anthonyraj thanked the Association for granting the scholarship to her. It has become a motivation for her to get this in order to improve her librarianship.

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.

Ms Ratmelia started her career at NTU Libraries as a key member for the campus wide blog service on WordPress which houses some 300 blog projects in 4 key areas - Academic & Research, Administrative, Course & Teaching, and Library blogs. She played a major role in the administration of the WordPress platform, research project consultation, training of undergraduates, project officers and faculty, and designing training materials and guides. In her work, Ms Ratmelia made significant contributions to many projects that serve the diverse needs of the university community. In her new role on the Advisory and Consultation Team since December 2017, Ms Ratmelia continues to exemplify a spirit of initiative, drive, and collaboration and strives to learn and acquire new skills on her own accord.

Ms Ratmelia was also involved in conducting a workshop for IFLA delegates in 2013 and organising the WordCamp Conference in 2016 and 2017. In addition, she volunteered in the 2016 LAS Annual Conference “Libraries for the Future” as a member of the IT Committee. She continues to volunteer on the LAS Website/IT Committee.

Both inside and outside of the NTU Libraries, Ms Ratmelia has demonstrated her passion for the information profession and a desire and capacity to acquire new skills. In her MSc in Information Studies, Ms Ratmelia’s supervisor highlighted her motivation, aptitude, analytical and communication skills in her course work and success in interacting with team members in the programme.

In recognition of her accomplishments to date and her potential for making significant contributions to librarianship in the years ahead, LAS is delighted to award Ms Noverinda Bella Ratmelia with the LAS Library School Scholarship.

When she accepted her award, Ms Ratmelia shared how very excited about finally becoming a full-fledged librarians she was. She thanked her supervisors and colleagues for their support and understanding in helping her realize the dream of being a librarian.

2017 LAS Outstanding Newcomer Award

13.4 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.

As part of her role in the First Year Experience team, Ms Lim provided information literacy for the *Program in Writing and Research* course, orientation and user experience activities like LibQuest. Ms Lim was actively involved in many library-wide projects like the Virtual Chat project and Learning Circle.

She became the Team Leader in the Information Access & Resources (IAR) section of SMU Libraries in 2016 where she oversees daily operations of electronic resources. She was instrumental in the merging of Course Support Services into IAR and helped to integrate Inter-Library Loan, Document Delivery and Reading List processes and services into the overall resource acquisition and delivery stream in IAR, making use of the knowledge learnt from Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. She led two teams to upskill and cross train the Library Specialists and to provide training and support to those new to electronic resources management. She presented a paper detailing the training for the library specialists in SMU Libraries at the Charleston Conference in 2016.

Ms Lim has consistently taken on higher levels of responsibility, as she learnt new skills and acquired new knowledge. Ms Lim has proven herself to be a valuable member of the Libraries and a good role model for new librarians, capable of delivering exemplary performance with her highly motivated, positive and results-focused attitude.

Ms Lim shared how, in spite of her age, she still sees herself as a young librarian with much to offer and much to learn. She too thanked her supervisors for being an active support for her growth and development as a librarian.

2016 LAS Passion Award

- 13.5 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.

In 2015, Mr Feng was appointed as the leader of the Digital Scholarship (DS) Team to create and build DS services in NUS Libraries. He and his team have experienced significant success. Soon after launching the service, they were invited to work on three projects; Geospatial Data Guide (Asia), Singapore Places of Worship, and Map of Origins: Chinese Clans in Singapore. Subsequently, they were asked by faculty and researchers to partner on projects ranging from meteorology to early European writings in Southeast Asia, and even to collaborate on five grant proposals.

Mr Feng's partnerships with faculty extended beyond projects into organizing events to connect digital humanities researchers from Singapore universities and NLB to discuss their research projects and experiences.

Mr Feng has also taken an active role in building the infrastructure necessary to turn the Collaboration Space in NUS Central Library into a hub for digital scholarship in Singapore and beyond. In addition, Mr Feng worked with faculty, colleagues and collaborators from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity to bring the "Datarama", a 360-degree immersive data visualisation facility, to NUS.

Mr Feng has enthusiastically communicated his knowledge with fellow librarians and researchers in Singapore and internationally through papers, blogs, sharing sessions and presentations, including LAS Libraries for Tomorrow: Disrupt and Innovate Conference and a blog essay in *LAS Singapore Libraries Bulletin*. In 2017, he received the Karl Lo Award to attend the Pacific Rim Research Libraries Alliance meeting to introduce a newly developed digital scholarship software tool, and has also shared the developments and his experience in digital scholarship with the international and regional library community.

In recognition of Mr Feng's research skills, entrepreneurial zeal, determination, and ability to bring together librarians, faculty, stakeholders and collaborators not only in Singapore, but across Asia, and his willingness to generously share his knowledge, while opening up exciting new opportunities for librarians to actively collaborate with researchers and faculty in a burgeoning field.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Feng shared that there are a lot of passionate people in LAS and who were also responsible for nurturing in his development and growth as a librarian.

2017 LAS Professional Service Award

- 13.6 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.

Ms Pang oversaw the planning, development and launch of the state-of-the-art Medical Library located on the top floor of the Clinical Sciences building, LKCMedicine. Under her leadership, the new library opened its doors in February 2017, operating on a 24x7 model with a variety of flexible spaces to meet the needs of the users. Caroline also set up an impressive collection of medical journals, textbooks and unique collections, such as the Medical Art Print Collection, Children's Health Collection and Singapore (SG) Doctors. In April 2017, Ms Pang led a library information literacy project team that was awarded a full grant of \$40,000 from NTU's Teaching, Learning and Pedagogy Division.

She was recognized at the 2017 Nanyang Awards by NTU for teamwork with the NTU Museum and Student Life. She was involved in the two-year project that saw local artists and staff members, faculty, and students work together to create works of art which championed environmental sustainability and interdisciplinary collaboration. Ms Pang also worked with other departments at LKCMedicine to shape the policy on records management and archives. She was instrumental in the evaluation, selection and development of a registry and archive system for LKCMedicine.

Ms Pang is generous with her knowledge and contributes to the development of other libraries unreservedly and to making information available to the wider community. Caroline positioned the Medical Library to serve the information needs of the Health City Novena community. In addition, she set up the resource centre at the Geriatric Education and Research Institute and provides unstinting advice to the National Health Group cluster on managing their e-resources and library services.

Ms Pang was also involved in LAS as a member of the Business Development Committee from 2007 to 2011. In those years, she demonstrated tenacity, collaboration and professionalism in working with the committee members to secure sponsorships for LAS.

For her indomitable spirit, inspiration and accomplishments, but more importantly, for her leadership and collaborative efforts within and outside the library profession, LAS honors Ms Pang with the 2017 LAS Professional Service Award.

Ms Pang thanked the award panel and council for recognizing her efforts over the years. She says that it is an honor to be recognized as a professional by a professional body. She honoured all the past recipients of the award who were influencers in their time, and for also influencing her growth as a librarian over the years.

2017 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award

- 13.7 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.

Mr Koh has also generously donated his award back to LAS for the Scholarship Award, for which LAS thanked Mr Koh.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Koh shared that he became a librarian by chance. He majored in Chinese classics at the Nanyang University. He was transferred to the library to order books from foreign countries. He started there as a full-time librarian in the early 1960s. After passing an English test, Mr Koh was offered admission to the University of Chicago on a scholarship to be trained as a professional librarian. When he graduated from the course, he was congratulated by the Dean for completing the course in 15 months. When Mr Koh returned, he was appointed Deputy Head.

Mr Koh shared that librarianship is really a service for the user and the library. How to provide and make it easy for the users to use the library. As for the technical services, Mr Koh felt that these are increasingly becoming things of the past. For example, with CIP being found in every book, it is no longer very important to the profession.

Mr Koh remembered attending IFLA in Italy and his visits to the European libraries, and how the libraries shared with him that cataloguing is no longer important in the library world. Mr Koh said that in Singapore, one had to spend several years in the cataloguing department in order to be considered a librarian. Yet when he was in Copenhagen, the library school there did not even consider cataloguing as an examinable subject. Thus, Mr Koh felt that, to him, he started the library profession as a deputy librarian in administration, with the focus on how users use the library.

Mr Koh shared that it was about this time in his life that he encountered Mr Choy Fatt Cheong who had joined the NUS Libraries. The start of the computerization of the libraries had begun. However even with such a massive endeavour ongoing, Mr Koh said that he would not allow the library to be closed even for a day, as it was more important for the users to have physical

access to the books. Mr Koh ended his speech by thanking all librarians, past and present, for their support of him and he wished everyone his best.

14 AOB

14.1 APLIC Gold Coast Australia

Ms Ang encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming APLIC in Gold Coast Australia. Mr Ronald de Milne pointed that the registration costs for ALIA is much reduced compared to the pricing for overseas attendees such as those coming from Singapore.

Both Mr Milne and Ms Gulcin Cribb felt that as LAS was a co-organiser of the event, then LAS members ought to also enjoy the discount. Ms Ang promised to look into this and to secure a discount for LAS members. Where LAS members were impacted, Ms Ang also promised that she would look into securing a refund for the difference in the registration cost.

14.2 LAS Mission and Vision

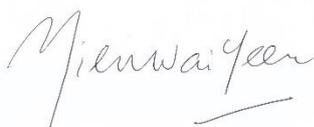
Ms Ang reminded everyone that when the time comes, as many LAS members ought to take part in the conversations that would define the LAS mission and vision.

14.3 Ms Catherine Tan urged the Council to consider issuing an award for librarians to attend regional conferences.

14.4 There being no other matters, Mr Kamaludeen Mohamed Rafi proposed to close the AGM and seconded by Mr Iftikhar Hayat.

14.5 The meeting ended at 12.37 pm.

Recorded by:



Ms Valerie Siew

Honorary Secretary

Vetted by:



Ms Samantha Ang

President