



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
• Message from SLA President	1
• Message from SLA-Asia Community President	2
• Message from SLA-Asia Community President Elect	3
• Editor's Note	4
• SLA - Asia Awards and Recognitions	5
• Conference/Seminar Reports	7
• Featured Articles and Stories	12
• Upcoming Events & Announcements	21
• Executive Board members	23
• SLA-Asia Community Mission Statement	27

8th International Conference of Asian Special Libraries - 2023 Participants



Message from SLA President 2023

It is my pleasure to send this message to SLA Asia as our appreciation and congratulations on your thriving and vibrant community. In the last year, I had the honour and pleasure to meet some of you in person at the SLA Conference in Charlotte 2022, at the International Library and Information Professional Summit (I-LIPS) Conference 2023 at Galgotias University in India, and more recently at the MLA|SLA Conference 2023 in Detroit. Also, we have been able to collaborate on many important and valuable events and discussions for our SLA international professional network.



Seema Rampersad SLA President 2023

SLA Asia is regarded highly by our international community for its' professional community and programming. It makes us truly proud of your high calibre of educational, meetings and networking opportunities that you deliver to your regional members and partners.

In February 2023, I had the pleasure to present virtually at the 8th International Conference on Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL) which many liaisons and interactions with our SLA Asia community based in the Philippines.

In April, I visited to Delhi at I-LIPS 23 and other venues such as DelNet, University of Rajasthan Medical Libraries Association and Delhi Public Libraries. These meetings brought me into direct contact with our SLA Asia champions and leaders such as Dr Debal C Kar, Dr P K Jain, Dr Parveen Babbar, Dr. Ravi K Dharma and Dr Santosh Gupta. It was great to meet so many other active SLA members and volunteer leaders, such as Dr. Susmita Chakraborty and Dr Meenal Oak. There were several in the SLA Asia community that I was able to meet in Delhi and I wanted to thank you all for all that you to promote and uplift our SLA brand and other professionals in the library and information sector.

FEATURED ARTICLES AND STORIES

Promoting Inclusivity through “Living Collections” in UIN Sunan Kalijaga Library Yogyakarta-Indonesia by Marwiyah, MLIS

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Background

UIN Sunan Kalijaga is Islamic University that initially was an Islamic Institute that focus on Islamic Studies with almost all students having Islamic backgrounds. In 2004, the institute officially change to a university (e.g., State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga) with a wider mandate not only Islamic Studies but also humanity and social science, science, and technology. Consequently, UIN Sunan Kalijaga has various students in terms of their backgrounds (religion, education, culture, etc.). And as UIN Sunan was declared as an inclusive university in 2007, UIN Sunan Kalijaga become more open and more actively promotes inclusion and diversity, and welcomes more students with various backgrounds including students with disabilities.

This is in line with the principles of inclusion that promotes quality and equitable education for all, without exclusion, including those who may be potentially marginalized by learning need or social position that led to the idea of inclusive education (UNESCO International Bureau of Education, 2009). Therefore, UIN Sunan Kalijaga takes an active effort to promote inclusivity primarily in the academic environment. This means that as an integral part of UIN Sunan Kalijaga, UIN library also has a responsibility to promote inclusivity through its services and collections. Basically, the library has an important role as a knowledge or information center that provides various resources for users either in printed or electronic format. And to support inclusivity, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Library develops a “living collections” program, as another form of collection in which the library invites resource persons to share their knowledge, ideas, or experience and at the same time, change the tacit knowledge of resource person into explicit knowledge through discussion and sharing session.

Implementation of the Living Collections Program

The concept of the Living collection was adapted from human library developed in 2000 in Denmark which aims to provide a place to speak up for users whose negative stigma and are discriminated people due to the unacceptable condition that make them “different” such as ethnic, religion, economic and social status, etc. (Unjudge Someone, 2023). This means that the human library focuses on the stigmatized group of people. According to the director of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Library, Dr. Labibah, living collection is a library service that provides live collection, a person who can provide information on certain subjects related to inclusive issues to reduce the negative stigma that might be experienced by a group of people (Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 2022). However, living collections programs developed in UIN Sunan Kalijaga library have a wider scope that not only includes marginalized or stigmatized people but also ideas to make tacit knowledge of people become explicit knowledge that enables people to access that explicit knowledge. The main goal of this program is to promote inclusive values in academic society primarily in UIN Sunan Kalijaga environment that can change the mindset of the academic community.

With the inclusive mindset, it is hoped that the UIN leaders and the academic society may welcome the diversities in UIN Sunan Kalijaga environment and also the community in general. Also, users can learn and get valid information from the primary sources, the key person who are invited to be the living collections.

In this program, UIN Library invites people as resource person that represents inclusive and diverse community or person who promote distinctive views that promote openness and inclusiveness. Resource persons will share their knowledge and experience in a live session hosted by UIN Sunan Kalijaga librarian for 20 to 30 minutes. The recorded video of this session then is uploaded to YouTube channel that can be accessed by users in the youtube account of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Library (@sukalib). The living collection is intended to become an integral part of UIN Sunan Kalijaga to promote inclusive values. During 2022, the library has invited seven key persons to discuss and deliver their ideas and experience in the living collections program that represent certain a group of people or people whose concerned with pluralism and humanitarian movement; key persons from Arabian and Chinese ethnic, people with disability, a Nun (Sister), a person who promote humanitarian values through organ donor, a person that promotes pluralism.

1. Prof. Dr. Phil. Al Makin, S.Ag., M.A.

In the first session of Living Collection program, the library invited Profesor Dr. Phil Al Makin, the Rector of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta who introduced the basic concept of pluralism as a basic element to understand the diversities and inclusivity. Indonesia is a country with the plural community that consists of different cultures, languages, customs religions etc. Therefore, as Indonesian people, we should accept this diversity.



2. Dr. Suharto, MA.

Dr. Suharto is a lecturer at Social Work Department, UIN Sunan Kalijaga. In the Living Collection program, he represented people with disability since he has low vision. In this program, he shared his experience as a low-vision student since elementary school (in his hometown in Indonesia) until his study at the graduate level, master’s degree in the Netherlands, and a doctorate program in Australia. He also talked about how people around him and his family support him. He said that an inclusive environment has an important role in his journey of learning.

FEATURED ARTICLES AND STORIES

continuation Promoting....



3. Sister Ambrosia Maria Magga

Sister Ambrosia is a LIS student. As a resource person in the Living Collection program, she started this session by sharing her duty as a nun. Then, she explained her feeling as a Catholic student at Islamic University. She experienced a hard time when she has to learn Islamic subjects such as the Arabic Language, but the inclusive atmosphere at UIN Sunan Kalijaga helps her to cope with the difficulties during her study. The acceptance of her classmates also has an important role that encouraging her to keep enjoying the class.



4. Chinese community/ Ethnic

Lucia Purnamasari dan Agustina Willijana are from the Chinese community in Yogyakarta. As Chinese people, they talk about their culture that is still preserved in their daily life like food and cultural celebration like Chinese New Year. They also share their experience as a minority group of people. Basically, people understand and accept their identity as Chinese people, but in some cases, they have to deal with different principles that put them in difficulties. However, they feel that nowadays, people become more open which encourages them to be more intensively involved in the community so that acceptance and understanding among them are automatically built.

5. Arabian community

Abdurrahman Al Haddar, a graduate student at UIN Sunan Kalijaga, shared the history of Arabian people in Indonesia. As a minority group in his hometown, he highlighted the community's acceptance and respect towards them, facilitating smooth socialization with the locals.

He mentioned that they are taught Arabic values and traditions to preserve their ancestral heritage, while also instilling a sense of nationalism as Indonesian citizens.



4. Chinese community/ Ethnic



5. Arabian community

6. Humanitarian Activist, Organ Donor.

Professor Pangesti Wiedarti, M.App.Ling., Ph.D is a lecturer at Yogyakarta State University (UNY). In Living Collection program explains her experience involved in activities relating to organ donors that may invite controversy in terms of religious issues and social acceptance.

But she explained that either her social and work environment or her family respects her decision to be an organ donor. She said that human has important as an educator and a doctor. As an educator, an individual has a responsibility to educate people and as a doctor, human is responsible to make people stay healthy. Her idea inspires other people to also donor their bodies to other people.



Dr. Labibah, MLIS
Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Kalijaga

Dra. Pangesti Wiedarti, M.App.Ling., Ph.D.
Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta

FEATURED ARTICLES AND STORIES

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7. Indigenous Belief/ religion

Naen Soeryono,SH., MH is the leader of PERSADA, Javanese Indigenous Belief Community. On this occasion, he talked a lot about this indigenous religion ranging from the history of this religion, the main doctrinal principles of this religion, ritual, and worship.

From the resources persons above, users can learn diverse values that may change their mindset that allow them to be more open to diverse condition and thought that can bring living in harmony. This is an important part of the inclusive values that the library promotes. Therefore, the library will continue the living collections program to support one of the university's core values: inclusive and continuous improvement.

References:

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Setneg Library Festival: An Innovation in Library Promotion

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The Library Visit Week was initiated by the Ministry of State Secretariat Library to continue the tradition of Library Visiting Day and Reading Fond Month established by President Soeharto in 1995. Every September 14th, Library Visit Day is celebrated nationwide, with various activities organized by libraries to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to visit and appreciate the importance of libraries for lifelong learning. Despite misconceptions about libraries being quiet, dull, and outdated places, they are recognized by law as institutions that professionally manage collections to meet educational, research, information, and recreational needs. Sadly, a survey revealed that some employees were unaware of the library's existence and had never visited, highlighting the need to raise awareness and utilize the library's resources for institutional development.

The Ministry of State Secretariat's library, classified as a special library, serves users within government institutions, community organizations, religious educational institutions, and other organizations. Its role includes supporting the institution's programs, facilitating research, promoting reading interest, and meeting the needs of users. It functions as a reference library, deposit center, and community learning resource center.

In the digital age and the era of the industrial revolution 4.0, libraries need to undergo a transformation to remain relevant and meet the changing needs of users. They should no longer be limited to book collections and literacy services but should also serve as interactive spaces for the community, fostering creativity, innovation, and collaboration. Librarians must be innovative in accommodating user activities and providing value-added services in the digital era. Recognizing the strategic role of libraries, Bappenas (the National Development Planning Agency) encourages libraries to lead the literacy movement and improve people's welfare. The social inclusion-based library service transformation policy, launched in 2015 and reinforced in the 2019 Government Work Plan, aims to enhance the quality of life and welfare of library users through inclusive library services.



This is in line with the National Library's program as a supervisory agency, that libraries must transform to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program proclaimed by the United Nations. This transformation begins with the active movement of the library to become a center of learning for the surrounding community.

Therefore, the library carried out a promotion which was packaged in the Library Visit Week to introduce the new role of the library to officials and employees within the Ministry of State Secretariat. These promotional activities are adjusted to follow the developments and demands of the needs of users as a place for interaction and a community learning center.

The Excitement of Setneg Library Festival

The annual festival of the Ministry of State Secretariat Library presents a series of activities that are beneficial for the competency development of staff at the Ministry of State Secretariat in particular, and literacy activists from the wider community. These activities include book reviews, library seminars, story telling for kids, workshop entrepreneurship, workshops on various handicrafts such a crochet, sewing, decoupage, macrame, cooking, health, automotive, photography, as well as a bibliobattle. Before the Covid pandemic, this activity was carried out offline by turning the library room into a workshop space for various activities for users.