MALAYSIAN INFORMATION CLEARING-HOUSE ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

by

ZAMRUDDAH ZAINAL ABIDIN

ABSTRAK


INTRODUCTION

The Secretariat for Women's Affairs was established in 1983 and placed under the aegis of Prime Minister's Department following the Declaration made by the United Nations in conjunction with the International Women's Year (1975) and the International Decade for Women (1976 - 1985). The objective then was to act as an advisor to the National Advisory Council for the Integration of Women in Development (NACIWID) in the country. Since then the objective and functions of Women's Affairs Division (HAWA) has increased and expanded. In 1990, HAWA was relocated and placed under the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development. In July 1997, the Division underwent yet another change. It was upgraded and given the status of Department becoming the Department of Women's Affairs under the same Ministry.

In 1987, the Malaysian Information Clearing-House on Women in Development was established at the National Population and Family Planning Board. In 1990, the Clearing-house was moved to the then Women's Affairs Division (HAWA), Ministry of National Unity and Social Development. The Clearing-house acts as a focal point and one-stop information centre on Women in Development.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Clearing-house (Pusat Sumber Maklumat Wanita - PSMW) is to provide all information on Women in Development to all government departments, policy makers, researchers, mass media, NGOs, international organisations, students and others.

COLLECTION

PSMW continues to build its collection on Women in Development especially women in Malaysia by

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* Librarian, Women's Affairs Division, Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.
acquiring new and important titles on the subject. As of today the collection has a total of 7,000 items made up of monographs, serials, documents, seminar papers, CD-ROMS and photographs.

LIBRARY SYSTEM

PSMW in its effort to provide good and efficient service, has acquired an automated library system with imaging/multimedia support. The system used by PSMW is the Virginia Technology Library System (VTLS) Integrated Library System. PSMW has started inputting the bibliographic data of the publication into the library system and soon all information can be accessed through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

SERVICES

In line with Malaysia’s government policy towards electronic government, HAWA has created its own homepage and it was officially launched on 13th November 1997 by the Secretary-General, Ministry of National Unity and Social Development along with the Ministry’s homepage. HAWA’s homepage can be accessed at the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address: http://www.kempadugov.my/hawa. PSMW continues to provide services such as reference and referral services, interlibrary loan, lending services and online services which includes the New Straits Times Press Library Online Service (NSTP-LOL) and information search through the INTERNET.

We also have a collection of statistics pertaining to women such as Women in Labour Force, Women in Education and Women in Politics. Users of PSMW are mainly students from institutions of higher learning, politicians and individuals who make use of the library collection to do their assignments and project papers. PSMW also entertain inquiries through phone calls, personal visits, letters and e-mails. Our e-mail address is: hawalbl@po.jaring.my