Online library for the public

U-LIBRARY is an online library portal that makes access to books easier for Malaysians. National Library director-general Datuk Roslin Abu Bakar said the portal would allow users to browse, borrow and have books delivered to their doorstep, for a fee.

The introduction of the portal was an initiative by the government to make information and knowledge more accessible by promoting the reading culture, and that Malaysians are moving towards becoming an inclusive knowledge society as a whole.

Echoing author Mark Twain, who said “A person who won’t read has no advantage over a person who can’t read”, Roslin said u-Library connected society to a broader range of educational resources.

“The service allow users to create, share and exchange knowledge with others to promote life-long learning in improving the quality of work for a sustainable and productive life.”

The portal was a collaboration between the Information Communications and Culture Ministry and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission. The u-Library connects users to educational resources offered by the National Library, together with seven consortium members. They are the Selangor State Library Corporation, Negri Sembilan State Library Corporation, Pahang State Library Corporation, Sarawak State Library, Kuala Lumpur Library, Intan Library in Bukit Kiara and Sabah State Library.

“All consortium members are equipped with radio frequency identification, portal technology, and inter-lending services to smoothen the process of e-payment, deliveries and book return,” Roslin said.

He said book-drop counters were made available to speed up the book-returning process.

Recognised internationally, u-Library won the The FutureGov Awards Malaysia 2013, APICTA MSC Malaysia 2011 and Runner-up for Best Poster in the International Conference 2013. It was also nominated by an international jury at the 2013 World Summit Award for the “e-Inclusion and Empowerment” category.

Roslin hoped Malaysians would use the government’s initiative in bringing the library closer to their homes by logging on to www.u-library.gov.my.