RESOURCE SHARING AMONG ASEAN LIBRARIES: BRIDGING THE INFORMATION DIVIDE

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Abstract
Resource sharing activities have constantly been vital to the being of libraries as no library can afford to acquire, store, and domain every information source that its library patrons might need. In support of the above, libraries have long been powerful agents in the dissemination of information to support lifelong learning. However, there is a lack of coordination and collaboration at the regional level in the implementation of resource sharing and library exchange programme among ASEAN Member State libraries. The creation of regional cooperation and collaboration in resource sharing and library exchange programme among ASEAN Member State libraries will enable information sharing, networking and preservation of our rich cultural heritage. However, in order for a successful resource sharing and library exchange programme among ASEAN Member State libraries, there must be a shared commitment, the willingness to contribute, technologically skilled staff, a need to understand legal implication and continuous funding for library cooperation and collection development. Global access to sharable information and resources should be encouraged through formal or informal networking agreement. The success of any library cooperation and library exchange programme depends on how well libraries can exploit these networking opportunities and contribute to the growth and development of knowledge on a global scale. Thus this paper discuss on the resource sharing and library exchange programme among libraries in Malaysia and ASEAN Member States. Among these efforts are Ubiquitous Library (u-Library), National Union Catalogue, Document Delivery Services, Conference of University Libraries and National Library of Malaysia, Malaysia Resource Centres, Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, Nanning Initiatives, IL-AP Project and CONSAL Projects.

Keywords: Libraries Cooperation, Resource Sharing, Library Exchange Programme, Malaysia

1.0 Introduction
Libraries have long been powerful agents in the dissemination of information to support lifelong learning through resource sharing and cooperation. Yet, there is a lack of coordination and collaboration at the regional level in the implementation of resource sharing and cooperation among the ASEAN libraries. This may be due to the fact that most libraries in the ASEAN Member States have not developed national and regional resource sharing initiative to make their respective rich cultural heritage and information accessible globally. The creation of regional cooperation and collaboration in resource sharing and library exchange programme among ASEAN libraries will enable information sharing, networking and preservation of our rich cultural heritage. The number of libraries in Malaysia is 13,572 in total comprising of National Library of Malaysia (NLM) and NLM Community

The old notion of possession in collection development is gradually being replaced by access to information and knowledge without favour to site and format. Resource sharing among libraries has become the mutual aspiration and practice. Increase in the volume of library materials and information, the increasing costs of acquiring and processing them, the need for trained personnel, storage space, and the increasing demands by users are motivating factors for libraries to share books, journals, preprints, catalogues, list of publications, recent additions, newsletters, policy decisions, current events, news flash, etc. Agreeing to Sangal (1984). “The present race between knowledge and book production has made it impossible for any library, however big it may be, to acquire all the printed literature in the world even on the smallest area of the spectrum of knowledge, or to cope with even a fraction of the daily production of literature”

1.1 Definition of Concepts

The expressions of “document delivery”, “access services”, “interlibrary loan”, “library networking”, “library linkages”, “library collaboration”, “library consortia”, “library cooperation”, “document supply”, are used interchangeably to describe formal and informal cooperation, partnership and resource sharing activities in libraries. Library collaboration, resource sharing and networking are used interchangeably as synonymous terms for cooperative efforts of information exchange among libraries. Mannan, and Bose () quoting Kaula (1986) mentioned that resource sharing is not a new concept in the field of libraries. The concept that goes by the term ‘library co-operation’ has been in use all along among those who had been working in libraries or had anything to do with the development of libraries. The term, however has been replaced by a new term; ‘Resource Sharing’; which sounds more attractive and makes better sense in this age of inflation and budgetary reduction. Thus resource sharing in libraries has become a necessity, and has gained worldwide acceptance. Provincial Resource Sharing Network Policy for Alberta Public Library Boards January 2009 (updated Apr 2010) defined of resource sharing in the Libraries Regulation: “means making available to other libraries the library resources owned by a board, the information contained in those resources and the staff expertise required to locate and make available the information or the library resources”

Categories of Resource Sharing

Ikphahindi (2006) quoted Oladapo (2005) categorizing resource sharing into three main categories thus:

1. Self-standing (In the first category, all of the three factors above belong to one organization or library)
2. Functional collaboration (In the second, the costs may be shared and the branding may indicate this. Ownership is equally with the lead organization/library)
3. Partnership (In the third case, the cooperating organizations/libraries share the ownership; contribute resources and ‘co-brand’ the resulting product or service. It is important that no library serves as a coordinating centre.

If the three categories are compared, the differences, according to Ikphahindi (2006), will essentially be related to factors such as: ownership, branding and financing. As much as possible, it should be decentralized, but there is a need for a monitoring committee. The committee will consist of at least one member from each of the participating libraries. The task of this committee is to ensure that the project is effective; hence there will be a need for
the committee to meet regularly. The committee will determine the broad guidelines for operating resource sharing among users in the consortium.

1.2 Resource Sharing and Library Exchange Models in Malaysia

NLM is empowered with two acts, that is the National Library Act 1972 (Act 80) (Incorporating all amendments as of 1 January 2006) and the Deposit of Library Materials Act 1986 (Act 331). The National Library Act relate to the executive power, roles of the Director General and the establishment of NLM whereas the function of the Deposit of Library Materials Act is to collect, document and preserve local publications for national intellectual heritage. In this context, the National Library of Malaysia is entrusted to make available for the use of the present and future generations a national collection of library resources and to facilitate nation-wide access to library resources available within the country and abroad. Besides that, NLM is also responsible as the national centre for the lending and exchange of library resources in order to promote national and universal availability of publications.

In order to promote resource sharing initiatives among Malaysian libraries in the digital environment, resource sharing among libraries in Malaysia include reciprocal access and borrowing services through the Union Catalogue of Malaysia Portal, sharing of digitised local and subscribed library resources through NLM’s single sign on Electronic Resources Portal (pnm@digital) and the Ubiquitous Library (u-Pustaka) to provide physical and digital access to knowledge resources anytime, anywhere and by anyone. NLM has subscribed to the World Cat Connexion to make Malaysia’s library resources more discernible and reachable to the world.

2.0 Resource Sharing Projects

2.1 National InterLending Centre

NLM is the coordinating centre for interlibrary loan in Malaysia since 1988. The total number of materials loan by users in 2014 were 870,455 units; comprising of 869,391 units for physical loans and 1,604 for online loans via u-Pustaka. The physical loans include Central Loan (783,958), Interlibrary Loan (532) and Bulk Loan (84,041). The most popular genre loaned by users is novel / fiction (60.4%), followed by language and religion. The Interlibrary Loan request can now be made online through the Union Catalogue of Malaysia (NUC) Portal (www.kik.gov.my). 42 Interlibrary Loans (ILL) requests were received from overseas institutions between 2010-2014 and the requesting countries were from Canada, Switzerland, USA, Hong Kong, Germany, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China and Iceland. Singapore is the only ASEAN library that requested ILL from NLM.

2.2 Malaysia’s Intellectual Heritage

NLM has the second largest intellectual collection in Southeast Asia with more than 4,507,188 materials in various subjects and languages comprising of 4,248,073 units (94.2%) of printed materials, 93,384 units (2.2%) of non-printed materials, 155,841 units (3.5%) digital materials and 4,890 units (0.1%) Malay manuscripts. These materials are documented and their bibliographic records are made available online via NLM’s Social Online Public Access Catalogue (Social OPAC).

2.3 Malaysian Ubiquitous Library (u-Pustaka) Portal (www.u-pustaka.gov.my)

A successful model of ubiquitous accessibility, joint contribution and sharing of library resources is the Malaysian Ubiquitous Library Project. The model is more popularly known
as u-Pustaka which was launched on 31 March 2011 ushering in a new innovation in library services. U-Pustaka is an innovation that manifests a collaborative synergy from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia through Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission with the support of the National Library of Malaysia. This project is a collaboration among eight libraries in Malaysia under the National Broadband Initiative. The mission of u-Pustaka is to foster an engaging lifelong learning experience for an inclusive knowledge-based society. The portal has been visited by 412,493 visitors from 121 countries and 1,031 cities from as far as the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, Brazil and Saudi Arabia while there have been 19,104 transactions involving books borrowed via inter-lending. u-Pustaka Way Forward under the 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) include roll-out to all libraries, enrich digital contents, integrated digital resources, upgrade infrastructure and info structure (dedicated network, cloud computing), enhance u-Pustaka services, strengthen resource sharing (specialized collection development, consortium subscription). The testimony of the success of u-Pustaka can be seen by winning four awards at international and national levels since it was launched in 2011.

2.4 NLM Electronic Resources Portal (www.pnmdigital.gov.my)
NLM provides public domain as well as subscribed and purchased e-resources to the users by widening its access to its electronic resources to all Malaysians through NLM’s Electronic Resources Portal or Digital Resources @ NLM effective 1 March 2012. This is a single sign on portal to all the electronic resources in the library and provided free to all Malaysians and the world. This portal can be accessed through personal computer, tablet computer, laptop, smart phone and other electronic gadgets by registering as an online member through this portal www.pnmdigital.gov.my. The services provided in this portal include borrowing and downloading of e-books and e-magazines. The total collection of e-books subscribed by NLM is more than 3 million. The total collection of e-books is more than 3 million which include borrowing and downloading of e-books, e-magazine and development of local content.

2.5 Union Catalogue of Malaysia (www.kik.pnm.my)
Another successful resource sharing is the Union Catalogue of Malaysia (KIK) which is hosted and coordinated by NLM for researchers, libraries and the communities at large. KIK provides easy accessibility to comprehensive information on library materials in Malaysia. KIK is a collaborative project among 128 libraries in Malaysia consisting of a consortium of NLM, academic libraries, public libraries, state libraries and government special libraries, KIK is a web based database consisting of 5,688,235 bibliographic records from all the consortium libraries and is being updated regularly. KIK contains bibliographic description, location and holding information of library materials in various subjects and languages. It comprises descriptions of printed and non-printed materials such as books, magazines, journals, annual reports, newspapers, maps, tapes, videos, films and electronic resources in multiple languages. KIK is used for ILL transactions among libraries in Malaysia and 783,848 hits were recorded in 2014 making up 12.2% usage of NLM online services provided to the public.

2.6 Resource Description and Access (RDA)
RDA is a successor to Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2 (AACR 2) which is designed for the digital environment. As NLM is the coordinator and also the leading agency in the implementation of RDA in Malaysia, two (2) NLM’s librarians were send to the National Library of Australia to study the implementation of RDA standards in 2013. Thus, to ensure that NLM is in line with the international standard for documentation of library materials,
NLM has implemented the Resource and Description Access (RDA) in March 2014. In this context, NLM has published a Guidebook on RDA Implementation in Malaysia and was launched on 3rd April 2014. NLM share its knowledge and expertise on RDA with other libraries by conducting Training of Trainers Workshop.

2.7 Resource Sharing and Cooperation Among Asian Libraries

The authors strongly feel that it is timely that resource sharing and cooperation development among Asian countries should be further strengthened as they could be shared as a very rich cultural resources and heritage. Global access to sharable information and resources should be encouraged through formal or informal networking agreement. Hence the China-ASEAN Cultural Forum & the 10 + 3 Workshop on Cooperation for Cultural Human Resource Development was a very good platform for all of us here to share our knowledge, experiences and expertise to further boost regional cooperation of Asian Libraries in resource sharing.

However, the authors stressed that in order for resource sharing and cooperation among libraries to be successful, there must be a shared commitment, the willingness to contribute, technologically skilled staff, a need to understand legal implication and continuous funding for library cooperation and collection development. But, the authors were confident that all these challenges can be overcome through the strong support of Asian Libraries and the Nanning Initiative of East Asian National Libraries which was endorsed by the delegates during this forum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>FUNCTIONS</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) 2013</td>
<td>Hosted the 21st CDNLAO Meeting. Association of Heads of National Libraries in Asia/Oceania region. 32 participants from 22 member countries including 10 ASEAN Member States attended the meeting.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/link.html">www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/link.html</a></td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Resources Portal</td>
<td>Provides public domain as well as subscribed and purchased e-resources to</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnmdigital.gov.my">www.pnmdigital.gov.my</a></td>
<td>1 March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Content Portal</td>
<td>Development of portals on local contents and currently there are 6 portals and web sites on local content in various contents accessible via the NLM’s portal.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnm.my/index.php?id=12">www.pnm.my/index.php?id=12</a></td>
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<td>Malay Manuscripts</td>
<td>Collection of 4,663 copies of Malay manuscripts in the world. In 2013, 229 researchers refer to 716 titles of Malay manuscripts in the original format and 57 titles in microfilm format.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnm.gov/manuskip">www.pnm.gov/manuskip</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia’s Intellectual Heritage</td>
<td>Second largest intellectual collection in ASEAN Member States more than 4,507,188 materials in various subjects and languages comprising of 4,248,073 units (94.2%) of printed materials, 93,384 units (2.2%) of non-printed materials, 155,841 units (3.5%) digital materials and 4,890 units (0.1%) Malay manuscripts.</td>
<td><a href="http://webopac.pnm.gov.my">http://webopac.pnm.gov.my</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Description and Access (RDA)</td>
<td>International standard for documentation of library materials</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Catalogue of Malaysia</td>
<td>Project among 125 libraries in Malaysia consisting of 5,257,120 bibliographic records</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kik.pnm.my">www.kik.pnm.my</a></td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
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<td>u-Pustaka Portal Malaysian Ubiquitous Library</td>
<td>Model of ubiquitous accessibility The portal has been visited by 412,493 visitors from 121 countries and 1,031 cities while there have been 19,104 transactions/circulation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.u-pustaka.gov.my">www.u-pustaka.gov.my</a></td>
<td>31 March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual International Authority File VIAF</td>
<td>The objective of the service is to combines multiple name authority files into a single OCLC hosted name authority service; which will lower the cost and increase the utility of library authority files by matching and linking widely used authority files and making the information available in the net.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pnm.gov.my/">http://www.pnm.gov.my/</a></td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Cat Connexion</td>
<td>Tool that allow librarians to perform original copy cataloguing with the world.</td>
<td><a href="http://nationallibofmalaysia.worldcat.org">http://nationallibofmalaysia.worldcat.org</a></td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>World Cat Local</td>
<td>Web scale discovery solution that delivers single search-box access to more than 1.267 billion items from the world’s library authoritative content sources.</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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3.0 Resource Sharing Through Library Consortia

3.1 Malay Manuscripts: UNESCO Memory of the World Register
NLM is the National Centre for Malay Manuscripts for the acquisition, documentation and use of the Malay manuscripts and has the largest collection of 4,890 copies of Malay manuscripts in the world. In 2014, 157 researchers refer to 918 titles of Malay manuscripts in the original format and 74 titles in microfilm format. To date, NLM has digitized 30% of the Malay manuscripts in its collection and some of the digitised collection (1st 10 pages) can be viewed via the NLM Online Public Access Catalogue http://webopac.pnm.gov.my (OPAC Tag 856). NLM also showcase its Manuscripts collection by holding exhibitions in the United Kingdom and Singapore. NLM also do tracing of Malay manuscripts in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, United Kingdom, Netherlands and South Africa.

3.2 ASEAN Sub-Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN COCI)
NLM successfully secured funding from the ASEAN-Sub-Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN COCI) cultural fund to host the International Digital Library Conference: Towards Regional Cooperation and Collaboration in Kuala Lumpur from the 8-10 April 2014. The theme of the conference is “Preserving, Linking, and Sharing through Cooperation and Collaboration among Libraries”. The Conference objective is to create regional cooperation and collaboration in implementing digitization activities among libraries. NLM fully funded two participants from each ASEAN Member States to attend the two-day conference cum one-day workshop to enable information sharing, networking and preservation of our rich cultural heritage. The National Library of ASEAN Member States showcased their achievements in digital initiatives via the poster session. Experts on digitization of library materials from Netherlands, Korea, Australia and United States of America were invited as speakers to share their experiences, knowledge and expertise Libraries must cooperate and collaborate in the digitalization of local content to increase access to digital information. The benefits derived from globalization of knowledge and resource sharing among libraries will be enormous in this digital era.

3.3 Malaysian Theses Online
Malaysian Theses Online Portal or more popularly known as MyTO Portal. MyTO is an electronic theses dissertation initiative to manage the collection of theses and dissertations of public universities in Malaysia. It was established at the end of 2005 to be a central repository of Malaysian theses and to share the collection of theses between academic libraries in Malaysia electronically which uses the open source approach to develop a retrieval system. It provide easy access and retrieval through search engines that retrieve accurate search results by simple search, combination of Boolean operators, full text search and provide the browsing features. MyTO is to be a central repository to the world as a reference site for the Malaysian heritage.

3.4 Collaboration between University Libraries and National Library of Malaysia (PERPUN)
NLM also embarks on resource sharing through collaboration with the university libraries. The most prominent consortium is the Conference of University Libraries and National Library of Malaysia (PERPUN). PERPUN is a forum of cooperation among the Chief Librarians of public universities and government-linked universities and the Director-General, NLM. PERPUN embarks on many cooperative projects to enhance effectiveness of resource sharing among all academic libraries and NLM in Malaysia. Among the issues
discussed in this forum include the establishment of electronic library network between university libraries, current information services, consortium of databases and publication delivery services. Many collaborative projects among NLM and the academic libraries have been carried out which include Malaysian University Libraries and National Library Network (MyUninet). MyUninet is the official name for PERPUN Portal and a gateway to online information resources for the universities in Malaysia and can be accessed via http://perpun.upm.edu.my/. MyUninet portal is the gate way in providing information via a single access enhancing cooperation and smart partnership among the libraries. The portal provides access to Malaysian Theses Online (MyTO) and Malaysian Union List of Serials (MyULIS) databases. Besides that, the Malaysian Information System Librarians (MySyL) and Malaysian Online E-Resources Consortium (MOLEC) are responsible for the development of content in MyUniNet Portal. NLM’s portal http://www.pnm.gov.my/ is link to PERPUN’s Portal http://perpun.upm.edu.my/ as a reference source to get information and materials through ILL services.

4.0 Human Resource Development through Globalization of Knowledge

4.1 Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

NLM conducted the first Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) in 1985 to signify Malaysia’s commitment to South-South Cooperation, in particular technical cooperation among developing countries. This programme encourages the exchange of relevant experience, pooling and sharing of resources and the development of complementary capabilities in librarianship. Two (2) courses were conducted namely the Library Visits/Attachment Programme for the professional staff in libraries with the general overview of library systems, practices and procedures in relation to the organization and management of different types of libraries in Malaysia and Basic Course for Library Assistants designed to equip non-professional staff in libraries with the necessary skills and knowledge and whenever necessary to manage the library. To date, NLM has trained 507 participants who were fully funded by the Malaysian government from 67 countries in Asia (including China D.P.R) including the ASEAN Member States, Africa, Pacific Islands, SAARC Countries, The Caribbean, East and Central Europe and North Africa and West Asian States. Three Hundred (300) librarians from the ten ASEAN Member States have attended this course and has gained much knowledge as well as fond memories of this course. Malaysia last conducted the course in 2013 and will continue to apply for funding to conduct this course so as to share our resources and expertise in order to bridge the information and digital divide among the ASEAN libraries.

4.2 International Visitors and Library Attachment

Between 2011 till 2014, NLM received 84 library visits and a total of 1,540 international visitors from 50 countries including ASEAN Member States, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Kalimantan, Iraq, Hong Kong, Germany, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Iran, Oman, United States of America, United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Nepal and Maldives. Among the ASEAN Member States, Indonesia has the highest number of visits to Malaysia with 15 visits and 275 visitors; follow by Thailand: 7 visits and 259 visitors; Vietnam: 4 visits and 60 visitors; Singapore: 3 visits and 49 visitors; Brunei: 3 visits and 24 visitors and Philippines: 2 visits and 54 visitors. Among the purpose of these visits is to establish networking, sharing of experiences and knowledge, benchmarking on best practices and resource sharing through gift and exchange of publications. NLM also conducts library
attachment programme in the preservation and conservation of library materials and library management for participants from Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia.

4.3 Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) 2013
NLM hosted the 21st Meeting of CDNLAO from the 25 to 28 March 2013 in Kuala Lumpur with the theme “National Library as an Agent of Transformation”. The CDNLAO meeting was well attended by 32 participants from 22 member countries namely Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and host country Malaysia. NLM secured funding from the Malaysian government to fully sponsor eight participants including from four ASEAN Member States to attend the meeting. The members actively participated in the meeting discussions and share their experiences, expertise and knowledge though their country reports, presentation of papers on special topics and library visits.

4.4 Resource Sharing and Public Accessibility through Globalization of Knowledge

4.4.1 WorldCat Local (http://nationallibofmalaysia.worldcat.org)
WorldCat Local is a web scale discovery solution that delivers single search-box access to more than 1.267 billion items from the world’s library authoritative content sources. NLM has subscribed to OCLC WorldCat Local in 2011 to provide access and resource sharing of library materials and local content in Malaysia on the web through one single search.

4.4.2 WorldCat Connexion
NLM subscribed to WorldCat Connexion which is a tool that allow librarians to perform original and copy cataloguing with the world. By using this service NLM will also be able to increase cataloguing efficiency through cooperation and by using the latest cataloguing tools and technology.

4.4.3 Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)
VIAF stand for Virtual International Authority File which combines multiple name authority files into a single OCLC hosted name authority service. The objective of the service is to lower the cost and increase the utility of library authority files by matching and linking widely used authority files and making the information available in the net. It is a collaborative effort between national libraries and organizations contributing to name authority files, furthering access to world’s major name authority files. NLM participated in this project to share the local authors’ authority file at the international level.

4.4.4 Library of Congress Authorities
NLM has embarked on contributing NLM’s authority files on authors and subject headings to Library of Congress Authorities. Library of Congress Authorities allows librarians to browse and view authority headings for subject, name, title and name/title combinations; and download authority records in MARC format for the use in their local library system.

4.4.5 National Libraries Asia Pacific (NL-AP) Project
National Libraries Asia Pacific (NL-AP) Project is a project on connecting digital content in the Asia Pacific region. With co-funding from the ASEAN Cultural Fund, the National Library Board of Singapore will develop the ASEAN component of the NL-AP (that is, the ASEAN Digital Library), aggregating the ASEAN digital content and offering users a one search facility to gain access to the rich cultural resources of all ASEAN national libraries.
The objectives of this project are to have ASEAN Member States National Libraries be part of a prototype platform that provides users with a seamless way to search for, and to gain access to, the wealth of digitised library materials held by them. NL-AP will bring together the metadata of organizations across ASEAN Member States to make it searchable from a single online platform. NL-AP also helps to showcase your country materials to other countries, to improve knowledge exchange and cultural understanding and publish your metadata in a friendly way. NL-AP also builds relationships between digital teams across the Asia-Pacific region in particular, the ASEAN Member States. In this context, National Library of Malaysia will contribute their key online collections which were copyright cleared and hence suitable for sharing via the ASEAN Digital Library platform. The metadata records will be send on a six (6) monthly basis for ingestion to the ADL system. The official launch of the pilot ASEAN Digital Library, including the metadata from five (5) ASEAN National Libraries is targeted to be held between October to December 2015. The ASEAN Digital Library is expected to be completed in 2016.

5.0 Conclusion
Worldwide access to sharable information and resources should be encouraged through formal or informal networking. In order for resource sharing and cooperation among libraries to be successful, there must be a need for a shared commitment, the willingness to contribute, technologically skilled staff, a need to understand legal implication and continuous funding for library cooperation and collection development. The benefits derived from globalization of knowledge and resource sharing among libraries will be enormous in this digital era. The authors foresee that the benefits derived from resource sharing and cooperation in ASEAN Libraries will be enormous in this digital era. Libraries must ensure that resource sharing and cooperation must be carried out at regional level in order to fulfil the user needs and to stay relevant in this challenging era. Libraries must acclimatise and change by embracing new technologies to make information more reachable and user-friendly in this digital age.

References


bibliographic, and indexing services in an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) age. Paper presented at the 26th Annual Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing Seminar/Workshop, Abeokuta.


