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## **Preservation of newspapers in Malaysia with special reference to Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (the National Library of Malaysia)**

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PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS IN MALAYSIA  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA  
(THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALAYSIA)

by

Jamaiah Aini Manah

A Master's Dissertation, submitted in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts  
degree of the Loughborough University of Technology

September 1993

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation is concerned with the newspaper preservation activities in Malaysia, focusing on the preservation microfilming programme of the National Library of Malaysia and the Sub-committee on Microforms (SCOM). It described the management of newspaper collection in the National Library of Malaysia.

The history of newspaper publishing in Malaysia, the importance of newspaper to the Malaysian community and the significance of their preservation are discussed.

This dissertation also described the national scale efforts in preservation microfilming in the United Kingdom with emphasis on the Newsplan projects, and the activities of British Library Newspaper Library and Department of Oriental and India Office Collection of British Library.

The recommendations, directed at the National Library of Malaysia and SCOM, focus on raising awareness of preservation issues, eliciting funds, creation of preservation policy and disaster preparedness plan, enhancement of training programme, introduction of staff preservation awareness programme, enhancement of the cooperative microfilming efforts and establishing an national and international exchange programme.

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I wish to thank the respondents of the survey (their names and institutions are as in Appendix C) for their contribution and information which is vital to the writing of this dissertation.

I thank Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Head of BLNL and Mrs. Annabel Teh Gallop, Curator of the Malay and Indonesian Collection, OIOC, for their briefings which have greatly contributed to my understanding of the subject and helped in the writing of this dissertation.

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Last but not least, I thank my beloved husband, Yaakob and daughter, Siti Sabariah for all the sacrifices that they made to enable me to realise my ambition.

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to  
my husband, Yaakob Sidikin,  
my daughter, Siti Sabariah,  
my parents  
and especially  
my mother-in-law.

Thank you for your patience, understanding  
and most of all LOVE.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Brief Introduction to Malaysia

The Federation of Malaysia consists of thirteen states, eleven of these are in the Peninsular of Malaysia and two are on the north coast of the island of Borneo, namely Sabah and Sarawak. Before 1957 it was known as the Peninsular Malay States or Malaya. It had come under various colonial rules namely: Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese.

Malaysia achieved its independence in 1957 and became a federation, named Malaysia, in 1963. Singapore, one of the Straits Settlements [1] during the colonial period, achieved its independence when it joined the Federation of Malaysia along with Sabah and Sarawak in 1963, but left in 1965 to become an independent republic.

The climate of the country is tropical with rain in all seasons and temperature generally between 21.1oC to 32.2oC (70oF to 90oF) in the coastal area and 12.8oC to 26.7oC (55oF to 80oF) in the mountains. Humidity is high throughout the year [2].

Malaysia's population is approximately 18 million and is made up of three major races: Malay, Chinese and Indian; and various indigenous groups such as Kadazan and Iban.

Bahasa Malaysia, based on the Malay language, is the official language of the country. English is extensively used and is a compulsory second language in all schools. Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien and Hakka are the more popular dialects of Chinese language used in Malaysia. Tamil is one of the seven Indian languages commonly used by the Malaysian Indians [3]. The literacy rate in Malaysia is 78.5% [4].

Malaysia covers a total area of 329,758 square kilometres and has developed a good infrastructure of road, rail and air transportation. Its communication systems consist of radio, television, telecommunication system and the press. Its combined circulation of 47 titles of daily newspapers in 1988 was 2,462,000 copies and for 20 titles of non-daily newspapers was 1,689,000 copies [5].

The library system in Malaysia consists of the National Library, academic libraries (university, college and school), fourteen public libraries with their network of branch and mobile libraries and special libraries which include libraries in the government ministries and departments, research institutions and commercial agencies.

## 1.2 Background of the study

Generally, libraries in Malaysia spend from a few hundred to several thousand "ringgit" (RM4.00=£1.00) each year to purchase newspapers to be used by their clients for general reading as well as study and research. Depending on the policy or general practice of the libraries, the newspapers will either be retained or discarded after a period of time. If the newspapers are kept, they could take the form of whole newspapers, news cuttings or microforms such as microfilm and microfiche.

But keeping the newspapers need not necessarily mean preserving them if the effort is not accompanied by a certain acceptable preservation practice such as providing adequate and suitable storage areas with proper environmental control and regular maintenance of the collections.

The very nature of newspapers and the papers on which the "news" is printed have resulted in the persisting and what seems to be an "unresolvable" problems of storage and preservation.

Newspapers are bulky, physically hard and heavy to handle. They, especially the older issues, are also very fragile, due to the size and chemical characteristics of the newsprint. It is mostly this bulk, difficulty in handling

and inherent fragility, among other factors, that consequently lead to the storage and preservation problems.

Lately, it is becoming a source of great concern to the department in which I worked at Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (PNM) or the National Library of Malaysia.

This poses several questions such as what to do with the originals, whether to preserve them and if so by whom. If surrogate copies are made, who should have responsibility for making them and in what form. Finally, it need to be decided whether to leave this responsibility to the National Library or to every single existing library in the country.

There is evidence that newspaper preservation activities in Malaysia have been in existence for more than two decades. But with the improvement of existing and development of new technologies, it becomes necessary to ask where these activities stand and what is the future for Malaysia.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to consider and highlight the current status of newspaper preservation activities in Malaysia, particularly in Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia.

This study will examine the current newspaper preservation activities in the United Kingdom with special emphasis on the preservation activities of the British Library Newspaper Library, the Department of Oriental and India Office Collection of the British Library and the NEWSPLAN project.

Based on these examinations, this study will make recommendations for further improvement of the newspaper preservation programmes and activities in Malaysia.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

It is also hoped that this study will raise awareness among the libraries and related organisations, particularly the newspaper publishers, on the importance of preserving the newspapers and that success lies in a programme which is well-planned and systematically implemented.

Consequently, this study also hopes to initiate a momentum for further study or research in the preservation of this particular material.

Of more immediate impact, it is hoped that this study will create the need for a more comprehensive survey on the status of newspaper preservation activities in Malaysia.

Based on the findings of the survey, the relevant authorities will be in a better position to determine the current preservation needs in Malaysia.

### 1.5 Methodology

Four methods have been employed to gather information for this study. They are: literature review, questionnaire, personal visit and interview.

For information about the preservation activities in Malaysia, the author has relied heavily on the data gathered from the questionnaires (see Appendix A) which were sent to various libraries in Malaysia, personal visits to some of them and interviews with the librarians in charge of newspaper collections. This is because nothing has been written about the preservation of newspapers in Malaysia and very few were written about preservation of library materials in general. The author's job experience and some personal contacts in the past in this field have been useful in supplementing some of the "missing links".

Questionnaires were sent to twenty selected libraries in Malaysia. They are: Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, Arkib Negara Malaysia (The National Archives of Malaysia), eight university libraries, one news agency library and nine

newspaper publishers' libraries. A full list of these libraries with details of address, telephone and fax number, and contact person is given in Appendix C. The reasons for selecting these libraries are discussed in Chapter Three.

The information about newspaper preservation activities in the United Kingdom has been gathered through consultation of books and journals for relevant articles. There is much being written about preservation in general but comparatively few of them deal specifically with the preservation of newspapers. The preservation activities in the United Kingdom will be discussed in Chapter Five.

Personal visits to the British Library Newspaper Library (BLNL) and the Oriental and India Office Collection Department of British Library (OIOC) were undertaken. Interviews with the Head of BLNL and the Curator for the Malay and Indonesian Collection of OIOC were particularly useful and provided much additional material to that available in the documented information.

## 1.6 Definitions

It is important to be clear about the terms which are the central theme of this study. They are "preservation" and "newspaper".



The term "preservation" is particularly confusing and seems to mean different things to different people. It is often used interchangeably with the term "conservation". To some, there is no difference. Matthews [6] pointed out that the term "preservation conservation" is also employed , adding to further confusion!

Feather [7] considers preservation as an aspect of library management with the object of ensuring that "information survives in a usable form for as long as it is wanted." Conservation, on the other hand is an aspect of preservation activity which normally implies "the active use of preventive measures, or processes of repair of damaged materials, to ensure the continued existence of individual items."

This study will use the definition of the terms as given by Dureau and Clements [8] in the IFLA guidelines which is as follows:

*Preservation- includes all the managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques and methods involved in preserving library and archive materials and the information contained in them.*

*Conservation - denotes those specific policies and practices involved in protecting library and archival materials from deterioration, damage and decay, including the methods and techniques devised by technical staff.*

Newspaper, as defined in the New Encyclopaedia Britannica, is a publication which is "usually issued daily, weekly, or at other regular times that provides news, views, features, and other information of public interest and that often carries advertising."

ALA glossary defined newspaper as a "publication issued at stated and frequent intervals, usually daily, weekly or semi-weekly which reports events and discusses topics of current interest".

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia's working definition of newspaper is "a publication issued periodically, usually daily or weekly, containing the most recent news".

Lim [9] in a recent compilation of the union list of Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei newspapers, took the meaning of newspaper to be "as it is ordinarily understood" today. But in the case of the earlier newspapers, particularly those published during the nineteenth century, a "more

relaxed view" of the meaning was taken. This means that for that period, magazines published weekly, monthly or irregularly are also included in the definition.

There are various other definitions and interpretation of what a newspaper is but the main and important elements of a newspaper are currency, seriality and consecutiveness.

In this study, PNM's definition of a newspaper in its Guidelines for Newspapers and Lim's interpretation will be applied.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### THE HISTORY OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IN MALAYSIA AND ITS IMPORTANCE

#### 2.1 Introduction

It was not until the nineteenth century that newspaper publishing in Malaysia, then known as the Peninsular Malay States or Malaya, started. The Straits Settlements (Singapore, Penang and Malacca) became the centre for the growth of newspaper and journal publishing from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

Newspapers "mushroomed" in those states because of factors such as the availability of adequate and modern printing equipment to facilitate the printing and publication of newspapers [1].

The liberal policy of the British administration during that period also encouraged the growth of newspaper and journal publishing. In 1857, the Gagging Act was passed by the East India Company in India and the Straits Settlements. This Act, resulting from the incident of a mutiny in India, aimed to curtail the growth of seditious publications. However, the English language newspaper publishers in the Straits

Settlements who felt that there was no necessity for such legislation, opposed it and with the support of the Governor of the Straits Settlements, E.A.Blundell, the Act was not implemented there [2].

## 2.2 The Growth of English Language Newspapers

The Peninsular Malay States's first newspaper was the *Prince of Wales Island Gazette*, an English newspaper, published in Penang, in 1805 [3].

Lent [4] and Ahmat Adam [5], however, state in their works that the first English newspaper published was the *Government Gazette*, in 1806, in Penang. It was published by A.B. Bone who was a merchant and an auctioneer.

The Gazette served as a house organ for the English merchants, planters and government personnel to advertise their wares, print government notices and keep them abreast of events and happenings in England [6].

From the beginning until 1970, there were at least 122 titles in that language. Fifty-one originated in Singapore, twenty seven in Penang, twenty five in Kuala Lumpur, nine each in Ipoh and Malacca and two in Taiping [7].

It was only nineteen years later that the second English language newspaper was published. *Singapore Chronicle*, as indicated by the title, was published in 1824 in Singapore. Other titles published in Singapore included *Singapore Free Press* (1835); *Straits Times* (1845); *Straits Messenger* (1842) and *Straits Observer* (1869)[8].

English language newspapers published in Federated Malay States include *Malacca Observer* (1826); *Penang Register and Miscellany* (1827); *Indian Pioneer* (1827); *Penang Gazette* (1838); and *Perak Pioneer* (1894) [9].

Most English language newspapers begun during the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century did not survive for a long period. In many instances, these newspapers ceased publication because of lack of funds and stiff competition from other more advanced publishers. Another reason was the lack of capable personnel, particularly the editors, to manage the newspaper publication.

After the separation of Singapore from Malaysia in 1965 Malaysia's *Straits Times* was established as a separate Malaysian edition. The Malaysian *Straits Times*, later renamed *The New Straits Times* and the *Malay Mail* (1896) continue to exist until the present time.

The years between 1942 and 1945 saw the depreciation in newspaper publishing in the country. This was the Japanese Occupation era. Many newspapers were banned from publication but a few were allowed to continue. They include: the *Shonan Times*; *Azad Hind*; *Malai Sinpo*; *Penang Shimbun* and *Singapore Nippo*. They were used by the Japanese administration to disseminate information about their military strength and power.

When the Japanese surrendered in September 1945, many of the banned newspapers resumed publication. They include: *The Straits Times* (7 September 1945); *Penang Gazette* and *Straits Chronicle* (1945) and *Times of Malaya* (1947) [10].

There were also new titles being published after the independence of Malaysia on 31 August 1957 which continue to be on the market now.

### 2.3 The Growth of Chinese Language Newspapers in Malaysia

The *Chinese Monthly Magazine*, despite its name, was the first Chinese language newspaper published in Malaya [11]. It was considered "the first modern Chinese periodical anywhere in the world" [12]. Initiated by William Milne the Magazine's objective was to promote Christianity. Accordingly, it was given away free.



*T'en Hsia Hsin Wen* (the Universal Gazette) founded in Malacca between 1828-29 was another early Chinese language newspaper.

There were no Chinese language newspapers in Singapore and Penang until the establishment of *Lat Pau* in 1881, the first Chinese daily in Singapore. Operated by a wealthy merchant, See Ewe Lay, it was the first newspaper created and published by a Chinese. The paper lasted for 51 years.

The first 80 years of Chinese journalism in the Straits Settlements were not very fruitful. The newspaper orientation was more towards foreign missionaries rather than towards the local Chinese community. It concentrated more on the reporting of activities in China than creating local Chinese opinion.

The situation, however, changed drastically during the period 1895 to 1911. Singapore became the meeting ground for political refugees from China. This resulted in newspapers becoming a medium for public forum supporting the cause of either the reformists or revolutionaries.

*Kwong Wah Yit Poh* was established in Penang by Sun Yat-Sen, a revolutionary leader, between 1910-1911. It became his main propaganda vehicle during its early years. Other newspapers were set up in Penang and Kuala Lumpur during this period.

The next period that saw the blossoming of Chinese newspapers was 20 years just before World War II. Eleven were started between 1921-30 and six others in 1931-40. Some of this growth can be attributed to the accession of Kuomintang to power in China during the mid-1920s. This event profoundly changed the typically apolitical attitude of the Malayan Chinese. The newspapers were, once again, developed to support a movement: this time either the Kuomintang or Communist [13].

Surviving newspapers begun in this period were *Sin Pin Jih Poh*, Penang; *Kin Kwok Daily News*, Ipoh; *Nanyang Siang Pau* and *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, Singapore edition. The last two newspapers were circulated in Malaya until separate editions were created in 1962 and 1966, respectively.

During World War II, although the Japanese did not encourage the use of Chinese and Tamil, their Shimbuns (newspapers) published pages in those languages. Underground newspapers that operated during the Japanese Occupation for the most part were Chinese. During 1945-47, at least 10 Chinese newspapers were started including the *China Press* (1946) which survives to this day [14].

## 2.4 The Growth of Indian Newspapers in Malaysia

The growth of Indian newspapers began with the migration of Indians from India to the Peninsular Malay States or Malaya. They came to Malaya in 1833 to work in the coffee and sugar cane plantations in Penang and Province Wellesley. Until 1897, the main crops in Malaya were coffee and sugar cane. After 1897, rubber was widely cultivated. This brought greater influx of Indians into Malaya to work in the rubber plantations.

Until 1875, reading materials for the Indians were books, magazines and newspapers brought from India. In 1875, a few educated Indians initiated the first Tamil newspaper called *Singai Warthamani*. There was another newspaper entitled *Thangai Sinegar* published in Penang in 1876 which was also regarded as the first published Tamil newspaper [15]. There were no more newspapers published until about ten years later.

The first weekly newspaper was *Ulagu Nesan* (1887) published in Penang; *Singai Nesan* (1887) and *Hindu Nesan* (1888) were published in Singapore.

Until 1895, Tamil newspapers were published only in Penang and Singapore because of the concentration of the Indians in these two states.

In 1896, *Thejopimani* was published in Perak. The first Tamil newspaper published in Kuala Lumpur was *Maha Yutha Samarasa Pathirigai* in 1915. There were more titles published between 1895 and the early 1900 in Penang, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Perak. But, like their English, Malay and Chinese counterparts, they were shortlived.

One of the few newspapers that survive the tide of time and is still in the market now is *Tamil Nesan*, first published on 10 September 1924 [16]. .

The early and contemporary Tamil newspapers are listed in such publications as the Arkib Negara Malaysia (*Katalog Surat Khabar dan Majalah Bahasa Tamil*, Kuala Lumpur, 1988); Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (*Senarai Suratkhabar Malaysia Kini dan Mansuh*, Kuala Lumpur, 1985) and Lim Pui Huen (*Singapore, Malaysian and Brunei newspapers: an international union list*, Singapore, 1992).

Tamil newspapers created after 1920 undertook the gigantic task of upgrading the political, labour, social and educational conditions of Malayan Indians. They were used to campaign for better immigration policies, working conditions and political rights for the Indian people.

*Tamilaham*, founded in 1921 by Narasiha Iyengar, broached the subject of Indian immigration in Malaya in its early issues and went on to discourage the Indians from coming to Malaya to work in the plantations. The newspaper lost some of its influence when Iyengar left to form another company which published *Tamil Nesan* in 1924 [17].

Although, there were a number of left-wing publications in Tamil which were started immediately after World War II to spread anti-colonialist propaganda, most of them confined themselves to promoting Tamil nationalism and unity on the basis of culture and language.

However, the past quarter of the century has seen a number of shifts in Indian journalism in Malaysia. New immigration laws have dictated against employing Indian nationals and the surviving newspapers are now edited by Malaysian Indians. With the government aiming at creating national unity, Tamil newspapers, like their English and Chinese counterparts, are implored to broaden their scope and not just serve the campaigns of the ethnic groups [18].

## **2.5 The Growth of Malay Newspapers in Malaysia**

The national language newspapers are relatively young compared to the English and Chinese language newspapers. The

first one appeared in 1876, seven decades after the *Government Gazette* in English and 61 year later than the *Chinese Monthly Magazine*. But once developed, the Malay newspapers grew rapidly [19].

Between the year 1876 and 1957 when Malaysia achieved her independence, not less than 400 Malay newspapers had been published. These newspapers were listed by Muhammad bin Dato Muda Linggi (*Tarikh Suratkhavar, Bukit Mertajam, 1940*); W.R.Roff (*Bibliography of Malay and Arabic Periodicals published in the Straits Settlements and Peninsular Malay States 1876-1941, London, 1972*) and A.M.Iskandar Haji Ahmad (*Persuratkhavar Melayu 1876-1968, Kuala Lumpur, 1973*) [20].

The early and contemporary Malay newspapers are also listed by Ahmat Adam (*Sejarah dan Bibliografi Akhbar dan Majalah Melayu Abad Kesembilan Belas, Bangi, 1992*); Lim Pui Huen (*Singapore, Malaysian and Brunei Newspapers: an International Union List, Singapore, 1992*); Arkib Negara Malaysia (*Katalog Suratkhavar dan Majalah Bahasa Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 1985*) and Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (*Senarai Suratkhavar Kini dan Mansuh, Kuala Lumpur, 1985*).

The most prolific period of the Malay newspaper publication in this century was between 1906 to 1941 when 147 titles were issued. Very few of them lasted very long. Today there are

only three surviving Malay dailies, the oldest of which, *Utusan Melayu*, dates only from 1939 [21].

The first Malay newspaper was *Jawi Peranakan* (1876), published in Singapore and lasted for twenty years until 1895. It was a weekly publication containing news of local events, extracts of overseas news and letters from the public, printed on four pages.

Other Malay newspapers include: *Sekolah Melayu* (1888); *Taman Pengetahuan* (1904); *Seri Perak* (1893), published in Taiping and *Bintang Timur* (1893).

*Bintang Timur* was the first weekly Malay newspapers in Rumi (roman letters). Its publication lasted for only a year and it was published by the Chinese Christian Missionary [22].

Most of the early Malay newspapers were either weeklies or fortnightlies. They were mostly written in Jawi (Arabic script). Some of them displayed fine khat writing (Islamic Calligraphy), for instance the *Seri Perak*, an indication of the presence of skilled calligrapher in that particular company. Most of these newspapers were produced using lithographic method.

## 2.6 The Importance of Newspapers and the Significance of their Preservation

The value of newspapers as historical documents is a universally recognised fact. They record facts, opinions, hopes and aspirations of a community. They reflect attitudes and biases of a particular society at a particular time. Historians turn to newspapers to ascertain how the events of the day seemed to people at that time and how they reacted [23].

By studying the contents of the newspaper, one can witness the trend of interests of the community during a specific period. For example, between the years 1955-1957 when Malaysia was on the verge of achieving its independence, there was a natural tendency for the people to concentrate on political matters.

In the case of Malaysia, sources which were normally used for writing its history were mostly government records. In the 16th century and the early 17th century those records were written in Portuguese. During the middle of the 17th to 18th century the records were in Dutch and from the 18th to 20th century they were in English. Records in Malay language were only available during the middle of 19th century but they were mainly confined to the Unfederated Malay States ie. Kedah, Perlis, Terengganu and Kelantan [24].



These government records contained, undeniably, invaluable information but they were normally not comprehensive. They tend to be restricted to matters which were considered important by the government of those particular periods.

Whereas in a newspaper not only were the editor's views apparent but there were also the people's views in the "letters to the editor" column. There were news of events and activities of the community at that time. It gives a solid basis for historical research into that particular society.

The significance of newspapers, particularly the early Malay newspapers as one of the primary historical resources, was not realised by local historians until about ten to fifteen years ago when there was a move to discover their contents which contain rich and invaluable information about the Malay community [25].

Apart from being a source of information for the history of the country, Malaysian newspapers are also an important primary source for research and writing the history and development of the Malaysian press and newspaper publishing industry itself.

Newspapers have been used as a medium to instil the spirit of nationalism especially during such period as the British

Administration (1876-1957), Japanese Occupation (1941-1945) and Communist Insurgencies (1948-1960).

They have also been used as a political vehicle. During the early periods of colonialism newspapers were widely used by the British, Japanese and Communists to disseminate information and propagate their political ideologies.

Similarly, many major newspapers in Malaysia today, are controlled by political parties who are major shareholders of those particular newspaper publishing companies. For instance, *Utusan Melayu*, *Utusan Malaysia*, *New Straits Times* and *Berita Harian* are controlled by the United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) which is the main component of the National Front Party, the country's ruling party, *Nanyang Siang Pau* and *Sin Chew Jit Poh* is controlled by Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), *Tamil Nesan* by the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) and *Star* by the Gerakan. MCA, MIC and Gerakan are alliances of the National Front Party.

Some of the newspapers are published by the political parties themselves, for example, *Roket* by the Democratic Action Party (DAP), and *Harakah* by Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS).

Newspaper is the cheapest and most accessible medium for disseminating information. It reaches the people across the

country bearing information concerning government policies and plans and news of events and happenings at regional and national levels.

The newspaper forms an important forum for the public to express their opinions and views on various matters concerning the policies and general administration, political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the country.

Newspapers are useful not only from the research point of view but also from a education point of view. They are useful in teaching reading skills to students as well as to help them to understand and distinguish between fact, opinion and propaganda.

The Newspaper in Education (NIE) or Akhbar Dalam Darjah (ADD) programme introduced in Malaysia several years ago illustrate the usefulness of newspapers in education. Some newspapers, for example Berita Harian, even devote special pages for this purpose. The comprehensive coverage on a wide range of subjects makes newspapers particularly useful for course papers and class projects.

Newspaper is also an important training ground for literary talents and young writers. Most, if not all, Malaysian newspapers allocate special pages to cater for short stories,

poetry writings and other literary creations.

Because of its wide and comprehensive subject coverage and its portability, it provides a one-stop reading material and information source not afforded by books, journals or other information media. In addition, it provides entertainment and also advertisements.

Because of the significance of the Malaysian newspapers as a primary source of historical information, an important educational aid and a large warehouse of public opinions and literary creations, it is necessary to ensure that newspapers and their intellectual contents are preserved for the present as well as future generation.

Another important reason which supports the preservation of Malaysian newspapers, especially in their original format, is for legal purposes where, in Malaysia, only the original copy of a newspaper or newspaper article is admissible as evidence in the court of law. For this reason, it is necessary to retain and preserve at least one copy of the newspaper in the original format.

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## CHAPTER THREE

### NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES IN MALAYSIA - BACKGROUND AND SURVEY

#### 3.1 Introduction

Microfilming of Malaysian newspapers with the aim of preservation started as early as 1959. It was initiated by the University of Malaya Library, the oldest library in Malaysia. Individual microfilming work as well as preservation of originals are undertaken by other libraries but at a much later date. Cooperative effort in newspaper microfilming began with the formation of Sub-committee on Microforms in the late 1960s.

Besides describing the preservation microfilming activities of SCOM, this chapter will also discussed the result of the survey on the status of newspaper preservation in various libraries in Malaysia.

##### 3.1.1 Preservation Microfilming Programme

The preservation microfilming programme is carried out at a national level. A sub-committee on microforms is solely responsible for coordinating the programme. The cooperative project aims to prevent the costly duplication of filming



in the country. It is also to ensure that microfilming procedures are carried out in adherence to an archival standard such as the ISO or BSI standards.

### **3.2 Sub-Committee on Microforms (SCOM)**

#### **3.2.1 Background**

The Sub-Committee on Microforms or SCOM was set up at a meeting of the Joint Liaison Council of the Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia (PPM) and the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) held on 19 May, 1968 [1]. It is a sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Bibliographic Services and Library Cooperation (BILCO).

#### **3.2.2 Term of Reference**

The terms of reference of SCOM are as follows:

1. To look into the question of microfilm resources.
2. To examine the present situation of microfilming programmes.
3. To liaise with other institutions and organisations for the coordination of these programmes on a national and international level [2].

### 3.2.3 Committee Members

The original committee consisted of twelve institutions from Malaysia and Singapore, namely :

1. Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (PNM)  
(*National Library of Malaysia*)
2. Arkib Negara Malaysia (ANM)  
(*National Archives of Malaysia*)
3. Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP)  
(*The Language and Literary Agency, Malaysia*)
4. Sarawak Museum, Malaysia
5. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)  
(*National University of Malaysia, Library*)
6. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)  
(*University of Science Malaysia, Library*)
7. Universiti Malaya (UMM)  
(*University of Malaya, Library*)
8. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore (ISEAS)
9. Nanyang University Library, Singapore
10. National Archives and Record Centre, Singapore
11. National Library of Singapore
12. University of Singapore Library

As SCOM progressed through the years more institutions joined the committee. The institutions from Malaysia are: Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM)(*Agricultural University of Malaysia, Library*), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)(*University of Technology Malaysia, Library*),

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)(*Northern University of Malaysia, Library*), Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM)(*MARA Institute of Technology, Library*) and Sabah State Library [3].

#### 3.2.4 Activities and Achievement

For some years, SCOM (Malaysia) has been studying the position regarding the microfilming of current Malaysian newspapers. Its aim was to ensure complete coverage of all titles. It took ten years for SCOM to prepare a list of newspapers for microfilming and to determine the responsible filming institutions. The list (see Appendix D) was finalised at one of the committee meetings held in 1978 at the Arkib Negara Malaysia [4].

It was agreed that members accepting responsibility for filming the identified titles will do so in accordance with their priorities and the availability of resources.

Besides newspapers, SCOM's microfilming project also includes the filming of Malaysian and Singapore serials and official gazettes. A survey was conducted by SCOM members to identify what serials have been published, what have been filmed and where are they located [5].

Some of the SCOM members are also running their own internal microfilming programmes such as microfilming of rare books, manuscripts, government gazettes and dissertations held in their collections.

In 1992, SCOM organised a seminar cum exhibition on the technology and management of microforms in libraries and archives. This seminar brought together librarians, archivists and personnel from commercial agencies dealing with microforms, particularly microfilm, and optical disc technology.

Besides these activities, SCOM is also undertaking two major projects. One is the preparation of a standard for microfilming and the other is the creation of a National Register of Microforms Master [6].

### **3.3 Result of the Survey**

#### **3.3.1 Methodology**

A questionnaire was developed to elicit information from various libraries in Malaysia with regard to their newspaper collections and newspaper preservation activities. The questionnaires were sent out to twenty libraries in Malaysia in April, 1993 (see Appendix C).

In the analysis below, the term "libraries" will also include Arkib Negara Malaysia which includes the whole organisation.

Response to the questionnaire was good. Fifteen (75%) of them were answered and returned. Unfortunately, there was no response from the newspaper publishers' libraries in Sabah and Sarawak.

Interviews with the librarians in charge of the newspaper collections were conducted during visits to some of the libraries. The physical condition of the newspapers and microfilms and the storage facilities provided for these collections were observed during the visits.

The reason for selecting Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, Arkib Negara Malaysia and the university libraries is because of their known involvement in preservation microfilming of newspapers and periodicals in the SCOM project. It is also because they are research institutions which not only collect newspapers and/or microfilms but presumably also preserve them in one form or another and endeavour to provide avenues for their proper exploitation.

The inclusion of the newspaper publishers' libraries is an attempt to discover any on-going preservation activities. It is also to establish the type and extent of the activity and to consider possibilities for cooperation between

libraries and newspaper publishers in term of preservation of the collections.

Inclusion of more libraries, particularly public and special libraries, in the survey, would have given a broader picture of the preservation situation in Malaysia. But this was not possible due to time and distance constraints. However, from the data that was gathered, it would be possible to draw a reasonable conclusion as to the current preservation scenario in Malaysia.

### 3.3.2 Analysis of the Survey

In the analysis below, discussion of response is in the sequence of the questions in the questionnaire (as in Appendix A). Some of the headings are modified to suit the theme of the questions.

#### 1. Background information

Response to the first question provides the background information of the libraries such as addresses, contact numbers and contact persons.

## 2. Estimated size of holdings

### a) Newspapers

The size of holdings for the original newspapers varies greatly in the libraries being surveyed, ranging from 27 volumes to 96,519 volumes. The National Library of Malaysia and the National Archives of Malaysia hold 15,708 and 96,519 volumes respectively.

The National News Agency (BERNAMA) does not hold newspapers in hard copy or microfilm format but has approximately 1.5 million news clippings which are kept in folders. Three libraries: UPM, UUM and ITM do not keep original newspapers but hold microfilm of newspapers instead.

### b) Microfilms

Five libraries have fewer than 1000 reels of microfilms, five libraries have between 1000 and 2500 reels, two libraries have more than 2500 reels and two libraries do not hold microfilms.

ANM does not indicate its microfilm holdings but as a founder member of the SCOM, it is responsible for the filming of at least forty newspaper titles (see Appendix D), particularly those which were published in the late 19th and from early to middle of 20th century, which are in

its collection. ANM also purchases newspapers on microfilm from the Oriental and India Office Collection Department of the British Library.

c) Number of newspaper titles by language

Newspapers in four main languages namely, Bahasa Malaysia, English, Chinese and Tamil are widely available in Malaysia. There are also newspapers in other ethnic languages such as Kadazan, the language of an ethnic group in Sabah.

The survey shows that five libraries hold newspapers in all the major languages, ie. Bahasa Malaysia (BM), English, Chinese and Tamil. Out of these, three also hold newspapers in other languages. The respondents were not asked to specify the languages. Two libraries hold BM, English and Chinese newspapers and four libraries hold BM and English newspapers. The remaining four libraries hold newspapers in one language only, ie. either BM, English or Chinese. They are the newspaper publishers' libraries: Utusan Melayu(M)Berhad (BM only), Star (English only), Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh (Chinese only).

The holdings, in terms of number of titles for each language, vary from one library to another. They range from two to thirty eight titles for BM; one to forty seven titles for English; one to seventy four titles for Chinese;



one to seventeen titles for Tamil and one to five titles for other languages. PNM, being the National Depository, holds all titles in all languages.

Although one of the libraries stated that it holds ten titles in other languages but the accompanying note "in Jawi" (Arabic script) revealed that the possible languages are Bahasa Malaysia or Arabic.

### 3. Permanent Retention

#### a) Percentage of newspaper holdings which are intended for permanent retention.

Not all newspapers hold by the libraries are intended for permanent retention. Seven libraries indicated that all the newspapers in their collections are to be retained permanently. These include four newspaper publishers' libraries, PNM and two university libraries namely USM and UTM. Two libraries, UMM and UPM, stated that their holdings are not retained permanently.

UPM explained that it retains only current year newspapers in Bahasa Malaysia and English. When microfilms of these titles are obtained the originals are discarded. It does not purchase or keep newspapers in other languages.

ANM did not answer this question but judging from its collections which dated back to the late 19th century it can be concluded that they are meant for permanent retention. UUM also did not provide an answer. However, the size of its collection is only 27 volumes reflecting that it is not meant for long term retention.

**b) Written Preservation Policy**

Only two libraries indicated that they have a written preservation policy. They are PNM and USM. Twelve libraries do not have a policy and one library did not answer this question.

A request was made in the questionnaire for a copy of such policy, if available, to be enclosed when returning the questionnaire. Only PNM has enclosed its policy.

**c) Disaster Control Plan**

In response to this question, four libraries answered yes. Eight libraries answered no. Three libraries did not answer this question probably because the respondents were unsure whether there is any such plan or not in their libraries.

Brief details as given by the respondents include: formation of a Sub-Committee on Safety and Prevention of Fire to plan and take action in any eventualities; fire

prevention committee at organisational and departmental level; having microfilm copy as a back-up of the original newspapers; and storing the master copy of microfilms separately from the original newspapers in a separate premise.

#### **4. Use of Newspaper**

##### **a) by language of publication**

The most heavily used newspapers in terms of language, in almost all libraries, are those in Bahasa Malaysia and English. Chinese language newspapers are heavily used only in the newspaper publishers' libraries, ie. Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh (Chinese language newspapers). There is infrequent use of Chinese and Tamil language newspapers in PNM, ANM and some of the university libraries.

##### **b) by period of publication**

The most heavily used newspapers, in all libraries, are those which were published after 1970. Four libraries also indicated the use of 1940-1969 newspapers and one library indicated the use of 1900-1939 newspapers. None of the libraries indicated use of newspapers published before 1900.

c) Instruction on the handling of newspapers

Five libraries stated that they instruct their users on the proper handling of newspapers. Ten libraries do not instruct their users. The libraries were, however, not asked to elaborate on the methods of instruction.

5. Binding

a) Availability of in-house bindery

The survey reveals that an in-house bindery is a more common feature in public than the commercial sector libraries. This is indicated by the fact that only PNM, ANM and all except one university libraries have an in-house bindery.

In terms of staff strength, one library has two staff, four libraries have between six to ten staff, one library has twelve staff and one library has sixteen staff.

b) Use of commercial binders

When asked whether they use commercial binders, ten libraries answered no. This is because they either have their own in-house bindery (eight libraries) or they do not bind their newspapers (two libraries). PNM which has its own bindery unit, however, employs commercial binders to

carry out a part of the binding process, i.e. sewing, of local and foreign journals. Five newspaper publishers' libraries make use of commercial binders to bind their newspaper collections.

c) Alternatives to binding

As for employing alternatives to binding, five libraries answered yes, nine libraries stated no and one library did not answer.

PNM uses corrugated boxes to keep its newspapers and the BERNAMA library uses a file system called "PILO PAK" for its clippings. The other three libraries stated that microforms, microfilms and microfiches as their alternatives to binding.

6. Microforms - production facilities and storage

a) Use of microforms as a means of preservation

Thirteen libraries used microforms as a means of preservation. The most popular form is microfilming. Eight libraries use 35mm microfilms and one library uses 16mm microfilms. Microfiche is used by three libraries for newspaper cuttings and one library uses microjackets.

Of the thirteen libraries that use either microfilm, microfiche or microjacket, seven indicated that 100% of their microforms are of archival standard, one indicated that 90% and another indicated 45% of their microforms are of archival quality. Four other libraries did not answer.

This is possibly because the microforms are purchased and they are not aware of the quality of the materials. It could also be the lack of knowledge on different quality of microforms.

**b) Availability of in-house microfilming facilities**

In terms of in-house microfilming facilities, again it is more a feature of the public sector's libraries than that of the commercial sector's libraries. PNM, ANM and five university libraries have their own microfilming facilities. All the newspaper publishers' libraries do not have.

**c) Provision of special storage areas for microfilms**

In terms of provision of special storage areas for microfilms, twelve libraries stated that they provide special storage areas for microfilms and three libraries do not. Two of the three libraries that answered no, do not have microfilm collection.

However, a few of the libraries have mistakenly considered a microfilm cabinet as a special/separate storage. They were not entirely at fault since the question failed to specify otherwise.

It was observed during the visit to some of the libraries that the microfilm cabinets were not in a separate area but were located in the work or office area with other materials such as books and files.

## **7. Storage and environmental control**

### **a) Provision of separate storage for newspapers**

In the question as to whether newspapers are stored separately from other materials, eleven libraries answered yes and four libraries answered no.

During the visit, it was also noticed that although newspapers are stored in a separate storage area, subsequently the area is also used to store other materials, for example, maps, books and audio-visual.

### **b) Monitoring of environmental conditions**

It is generally known that storing newspapers and microfilms in a controlled environment minimises their deterioration. The temperature and humidity of the closed

access stack where the materials are kept and open access reading areas where the materials are going to be utilised should not vary very greatly because sudden or great change of environment can cause even more harm to the materials.

As for the libraries being surveyed, three libraries monitor the environmental conditions in the open access reading area, twelve libraries do not. Four libraries monitor the environmental conditions in the closed access stack area while eleven libraries do not.

c) Control of storage conditions to meet preservation needs

Four libraries are able to control the storage conditions to meet the preservation needs of the materials in the reading area and eleven libraries stated they are not able to. Seven libraries are able to control storage conditions in stack area and eight libraries stated they are not able to do so.

d) Average Relative Humidity and Temperature

The average temperature and Relative Humidity maintained by the libraries are 20oC-25oC and 50-55% respectively. Most of the other libraries, although air-conditioned, do not indicate any figures because they are not known.



e) Procedures for surveying/treating newspapers

In terms of maintenance and treatment of the collections, six libraries reported that they have a procedure for surveying and treating their stock. Nine libraries do not have. The types of treatment conducted by the libraries include regular or random fumigation, cleaning, rebinding, yearly stock taking and reprocessing of microfilms once every five or six years.

8. Preservation awareness/training

a) In-house programme for preservation awareness

Four libraries have in-house programmes for preservation awareness for their staff. The details of the programmes as given by the libraries include basic courses for Library Assistants, in-house programmes conducted by the Training and Development Branch, adoption of procedures in the loan policy and instructing staff to handle material with care. Eleven libraries do not conduct any in-house programme for preservation awareness for their staff.

b) Training in preservation/conservation

In terms of training, eight libraries indicated that their staff have received training in the field of preservation or conservation.

The training takes the form of basic courses for library assistants, practical training in repair and restoration, attendance at seminars, courses in reprography and conservation and practical attachment. The libraries reported that their staff had attended courses conducted or organised by PNM, ANM and British Council.

The staff of the other seven libraries including five newspaper publishers' libraries have not received any training in this field.

## 9. Cooperation

### a) acquisition b) retention c) preservation

Two out of fifteen libraries indicated that they cooperate in terms of acquisition and two libraries cooperate in retention of the newspapers. As far as cooperation in preservation is concerned four libraries indicated cooperation. These libraries are the committee members in SCOM. Eleven libraries do not cooperate in preservation of the newspapers.

## 10. Expenditure on

### a) Conservation/binding b) Acquisition

Some libraries responded to this question by giving either

the conservation and binding expenditure or acquisition expenditure. This is because their newspapers are not purchased (e.g. the newspaper publishers' libraries), or they do not conserve/bind the newspapers (e.g. some of the university libraries).

Only four libraries gave both expenditure. It appears that almost equal amount of money is spent on acquisition and conservation of newspapers. The range of amount spent for both acquisition and preservation is between RM500 and RM2500 (RM4.00= £1.00).

#### **11. Need for a separate national centre in Malaysia for preservation and conservation of newspapers**

Eleven libraries responded yes to this question and four libraries said no. The respondents, however, were not asked to elaborate on their answers or to state the reason why there is a need or no need for a separate national centre for the preservation of the newspapers.

#### **12. Further comments or specific problems faced by the libraries concerning the preservation/conservation of newspapers**

Six libraries responded to this question. Four of the libraries indicated lack of space as their problem. One of the four libraries included problem of lack of fund and

staff. Another library commented on retrieval problem whereby current technology offer no solution to the problem of information storage and retrieval of Chinese language newspapers.

One library commented on the viability of preserving original newspapers in view of the recent availability of local newspapers on-line, ie. The New Straits Times (NSTP) On-Line Reference Service. It accommodates five newspapers published by the NSTP namely: The New Straits Times, Berita Harian, Business Times, Malay Mail and Harian Metro.

Nine libraries did not offer any comments or stated any problems. This is probably because some of them do not retain newspapers, thus the problems, as far as newspapers are concerned, do not arise.

### 3.3.3 Conclusions of the Survey

#### a) Holdings and Current Activities

From the findings of the survey it can be concluded that there are ongoing newspaper preservation activities in Malaysia. Leading the programmes are Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, as the National Depository for all library resources published in the country including newspapers, and Arkib Negara Malaysia, an institution entrusted with the task of preserving and conserving the national

heritage. Both libraries preserve original newspapers as well as microfilm copies.

Attempts to preserve the original copy of newspapers are also made by other libraries, especially the newspaper publishers' libraries despite the prevailing problems of lack of storage space, staff to manage the collections and funding.

The microfilming work, which is the most used technique of newspaper preservation, is carried out as a cooperative venture as well as on individual basis.

There is duplication of efforts in the retention and preservation of original newspapers and the microfilming work.

#### b) Use of Newspapers

The newspapers which are acquired and maintained by each library, in term of languages, depend on the libraries' functions and users.

Bahasa Malaysia and English newspapers, as expected, are the most heavily used due to the National Education system which places great emphasis on these two languages. Use of Chinese and Tamil newspapers are mainly confined to their relevant publishers' libraries although sporadic use of

them could be found in PNM, ANM and a few academic libraries which have Chinese and Indian students and staff.

The more recent publications (after 1970) are most used. Recent changes in the school curriculum which places greater emphasis on research-based learning and the introduction of many new government policies which are widely publicised in the newspapers during this period could be a factor for this trend.

#### c) Facilities

In-house facilities for binding and microfilming are commonly available in public than commercial sector's libraries probably because such facilities are more economically viable for those libraries due to the quantity and variety of materials. Whereas for the newspaper publishers' libraries it is more economical and practical to use the services already available in the market rather than to establish their own in-house facilities.

#### d) Storage and Maintenance

It is observed that there are efforts to provide separate storage areas although in most cases they are inadequate. Where separate storage is provided for the materials, the recommended levels of environmental condition, in terms of Relative Humidity and temperature, are maintained.

e) Separate Centre for Newspapers

There is a general consensus concerning the need for a separate national centre for the preservation of newspapers. It indicates some awareness among the librarians of the significance of this material as an important source of information and of the need to provide proper management to ensure its longevity.

f) Preservation Policy and Disaster Preparedness Plan

On the other hand, there appears to be a general lack of awareness of the need for a policy or guideline and a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan which are fundamental to a preservation programme.

g) Education and Awareness

Another essential element which is rather lacking in Malaysian preservation activities is that of staff training. The survey reveals that there is a need to increase the effort in staff training in preservation of newspapers and to establish a regular in-house preservation awareness programmes for the staff as well as library users.

#### h) Staffing and Funding

Preservation of newspapers seemed to be a low priority area in terms of staffing and funding. This is fairly obvious from the problems indicated by the respondents of the survey. The number of staff employed at the bindery units appear to be adequate but they are normally required to bind other materials such as journals and books as well. Lack of funds has also resulted in inability to provide adequate storage space for the collections.



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## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESERVATION OF MALAYSIAN NEWSPAPERS IN PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA (THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALAYSIA)

#### 4.1 Introduction

The significance of Malaysian newspapers as a primary source of information on history, political trends and economic development of the country and a reflection of social and cultural attitude, has been established. That newspapers are a key part of the nation's heritage is an acknowledged fact. Thus, the preservation of newspapers should be of serious concern to all libraries, particularly the National Library.

In the analysis of the survey, it is apparent that, besides Arkib Negara Malaysia, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia or the National Library of Malaysia has, comparatively, a more comprehensive preservation programme in terms of collections, funding, facilities, policy, storage provision, staff training, etc.

As a national library, the role of Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia in the preservation of Malaysian newspapers is clearly reflected by the following definition adopted at the 16th Session of the 1970 Unesco General Conference -

*National Libraries: libraries which, irrespective of their titles, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a "deposit" library...[1].*

#### **4.2 Background of Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia**

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (PNM) or the National Library of Malaysia, henceforth referred to as PNM, originated from a national library services unit which was established within the National Archives in 1966. It was formally established as a component of the Federal Department of Archives and National Library in 1971.

In May, 1972, the National Library Act [2] was passed by the Parliament of Malaysia. The objectives and functions of PNM are set out in this.

In January 1977, PNM was separated from the National Archives and became a separate Federal Department.

For more than two decades, PNM has been placed, at various times, under seven different ministries. Currently it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

The last transfer, affected on 27 October, 1990 [3] is significant in the sense that finally PNM is placed under a

Ministry which is directly related to its research and educational nature. It also brought distinct advantage in terms of funding. In 1992, PNM received an annual grant of approximately RM25.4 million (equivalent to £6.4 million) which was four times that of the previous years' budget [4].

PNM has moved from multi-site locations to a new building in July/August, 1992. The Library's organisation was restructured to enable it to function more effectively and cater for the nation's increasing information needs.

New services have been introduced and some of the existing ones expanded and relocated. Of particular significance is the relocation of the Conservation and Reprography Division from the Support Services Programme to the Collection Building Programme. Similarly, Koleksi Negara (Legal Deposit Collection) is now placed under Legal Deposit Division which also comes under Collection Development Programme. It is renamed as the National Depository.

#### 4.3 Objectives and Functions

PNM's objectives are: to make available a national collection of library resources for present and future use; to facilitate access to these resources; and to provide leadership on library matters.

Among the Library's functions which are pertinent to the topic of discussion are: to acquire and maintain a comprehensive national collection of library resources reflecting the intellectual, literary and cultural heritage of the nation and to establish a National Depository to store and conserve the resources received [5].

#### 4.4 Management of Newspaper Collection

##### 4.4.1 Acquisition

The main bulk of the newspaper collection in PNM is acquired through two legal deposit legislations. The Preservation of Books Acts 1966 (Act 35 of 1966)[6] was in force for twenty year before it was repealed by the Deposit of Library Material Act 1986 (Act 331)[7].

Through the former legislation, PNM received two copies of the newspapers published in the country and under the latter Act which was implemented on 1 April, 1987, five copies of the newspapers are delivered to PNM which is designated as the National Depository.

PNM also subscribes to additional copies of major newspapers in the four major Malaysian languages to cater for users' immediate reference and reading needs.

In line with the Policy on Microfilm [8] and Conservation Policy [9], PNM also purchases newspapers on microfilm from other institutions participating in SCOM's cooperative microfilming project.

#### 4.4.2 Size of the Collection

Generally, the newspapers held by PNM date back to 1966. Newspapers prior to 1966 were retained and preserved by Arkib Negara Malaysia when the two departments separated. However, a few back issues of the newspapers, dating as early as 1915, can be found in PNM's collection.

The *Senarai Suratkhavar Malaysia: Kini dan Mansuh* (List of Current and Defunct Malaysian Newspapers)[10], published by PNM in 1985, recorded seventy four current and eighty defunct titles, including variant editions, currently held by PNM.

In terms of volumes, PNM holds 15,708 volumes of newspapers with an estimated increase of 800 volumes per year [11].

#### 4.4.3 Use of Newspapers in PNM

Newspapers in PNM serve several purposes: preservation, microfilming, indexing for publication and current awareness service, reference, general reading and reprography.

The primary aim of legal deposit acquisition is preservation. As mentioned earlier, PNM currently receives five copies of each title of the newspapers published in the country.

One copy of the newspapers (first copy) is preserved. Two copies (second and third copies) are sent to the designated regional depositories, namely: USM in Penang and Sabah State Library in Sabah.

The remaining two copies, (fourth and fifth copies) are allotted to the Malaysiana Reference Division for general reading, reference and reprographic purposes. Additional copies of major newspaper titles, for example *The New Straits Times*, *Utusan Malaysia* and *Sin Chew Jit Poh* are subscribed by the Division to cater for immediate demand since the legal deposit copies do not reach the Division until at the end of the month.

In 1990, 414,931 items were used. 275,683 (66.4%) of these comprised monographs (books, seminar papers and monograph serials) and journals; 4,732 (1.1%) were audiovisual materials which included microfilms, microfiche, videotapes and cassettes; and 134,516 (32.4%) were newspapers [12]. It appears that newspapers, apart from books, are heavily used in the Library.

PNM publishes newspaper indexes to facilitate research and use of the newspapers. Four titles are currently indexed. They are: Utusan Malaysia, Berita Harian (in Bahasa Malaysia) and the New Straits Times and Star (in English). The fourth or fifth copy of the newspaper received through legal deposit is used.

Newspapers are also used to provide current awareness service. Articles on selected topics such as small entrepreneurship, library development, Malay language development, literacy and reading habits are photocopied and filed under each topic for reference. Subscribed newspapers are normally used for this purpose.

#### 4.4.4 Preservation of Original Newspapers

##### a) Policy

PNM's practice of preserving original newspapers is stated in the Policy on Newspapers[13] drawn up in 1977, which is in parallel with the provisions in the Legal Deposit legislations and the National Library Act [14]. It covers the management of newspapers from selection and acquisition to binding and use.



It provides that one copy of the newspapers received under the legal deposit "shall be located in the legal deposit collection for preservation" and that this copy "is appropriately bound in accordance with the binding policy..." [15].

The National Library Policy [16], formulated in 1986, also provides for preservation of original newspapers. It states that the National Library shall conserve in its original form, whenever possible, at least one copy of all library material published or produced within the country.

It goes further to provide that copies of the materials shall also be conserved and maintained in regional locations in order to "preserve the national heritage... should any calamity befall the central collections of the National Library" [17]. To this effect, the USM library in Penang and the Sabah State Library in Sabah are appointed as the regional depositories for newspapers and other legal deposit materials.

In 1990, the Conservation and Reprography Division of PNM formulated a comprehensive conservation policy so that the Library's preservation and conservation plans and strategies can be effectively implemented.

In general, the policy is to ensure that all PNM's collections are systematically preserved through storage, restoration, conservation, binding and microfilming activities in usable condition for as long as possible for the use of present and future generation.

The objectives of preservation are twofold: firstly, to preserve the intellectual content of the information recorded in the library material and secondly, to preserve the original physical form of library material in as intact and usable a form as possible [18]. ✓

The policy outlines various aspects of preservation in terms of acquisition of materials, conservation techniques including binding and format conversion, storage and environmental control, pest control and inspection procedure, use and security of materials and disaster preparedness. ✓

#### b) Methods of Preservation

Until about 1985, the newspapers were bound. This process was, however, time-consuming and expensive. The binders were unable to cope with the quantity and variety of materials that need binding which were not only newspapers but also journals, manuscripts, conference papers and rare books. ✓

Alternatives to binding were then employed. Initially, cardboard covers or jackets were used. The main advantage of jackets was that they can be constructed in batches and used by any staff. Since it did not involve binding of the newspapers the binders were able to concentrate on other materials.

Other advantages included lessening the amount of handling of the newspaper which, to a certain extent, helps in preservation; enabling retrieval of individual issues of newspapers, which is not possible in bound volumes; and making refilming work, when the need arises, more convenient and practical.

The disadvantage is, however, because the contents are loose, they are more prone to disarrangement, loss and damage due to careless handling. It is also awkward to retrieve the content because of the use of many strings to secure the jacket and it requires a rather large workspace.

From 1990, the boxing method has been used. A corrugated box to accommodate broadsheet newspapers with two inches thickness was designed by the staff of Conservation and Reprography Division. A commercial packaging company is commissioned to make and supply the boxes to the Library.

The box offers similar advantages as those of jacket. It is easier to retrieve the content as well. At least two volumes of tabloid newspapers could be laid side by side or unfolded. The standard size also gives a neater appearance and made arrangement on the shelf more convenient.

c) Storage of Newspapers

PNM's newspaper collection had been subjected to a rather "nomadic" life in the past twenty years. The collection was, initially, housed in a building with hardly adequate storage facilities.

In 1985, the collection was moved to a warehouse. There was ample storage space but funds was unavailable to purchase additional shelves for the collections. Installation of airconditioning units in such a warehouse was impractical and uneconomical because it was not intended as a permanent storage. Worst still, it was located in an industrial area with heavy traffic flow. Damage by common pests such as termites, cockroaches and mice was controlled, to a certain extent, by contracting regular pest control and inspection services. However, not much could be done with regard to other hazards such as atmospheric pollution, light, heat, moisture and dust, due to lack of funds. The newspapers quickly turned yellow and became brittle during this period.

Forde [19] in her report of the study of the status of the Conservation Department of National Library in 1985 observed that considerable damaged had been inflicted on the collection during this period, in particular by termites and poor storage. Although efforts were made to minimise the damage, the scope of the problem was too great.

The situation did improve when the collection was again moved to another depository, an office building, in November/December 1987. A more conducive working and preservation environment for the staff and the collections was provided. The storage and working areas are fully carpeted and airconditioned. Although the airconditioning was still not run on a 24 hour basis, heat could now be reduced by switching off the lights in the storage area when not in use and using curtains to block off external light. The storage area and collections were regularly inspected and vacuum-cleaned.

These measures help, to some extent, arrest further deterioration of the earlier collections and prevent damage of newspapers acquired during this period.

The purpose-built stack areas in the new building are not without their shortcomings. Large glass windows line the two sides of the stack areas which face the morning sun. It is a major problem, in term of preservation, since it means that

strong light can penetrate into the room which is very harmful for the collection. Apparently, this problem was solved quite simply, by applying black paint to the windows which totally blocks out the light.

d) Environmental Control

A good and reliable airconditioning facility is essential in preservation of library materials particularly in a tropical country like Malaysia where the climate is very hot and humid throughout the year. It is even more crucial in terms of newspaper preservation because of the inherent fragility of the newsprint.

Some of PNM's newspapers, particularly those acquired before 1987, have suffered a certain degree of damage and deterioration due to poor storage, rough handling during moves and lack or no airconditioning facility.

The storage condition in the stack room of the new building has been greatly improved with provision of 24 hour airconditioning and installation of a dehumidifier to regulate humidity. The temperature and relative humidity are maintained at the recommended level of 20oC-22oC and 50%-55% respectively.

Compact shelving to increase storage capacity is provided for newspapers. The newspapers are shelved horizontally which has always been a practice for shelving newspapers in PNM even in the former premises where space was lacking, although they were usually stacked in high piles, sometimes on the floor.

In terms of security of the newspaper collection, the stack room entrances are kept locked and only accessible to designated staff. The room is equipped with smoke and heat detectors and an automatic fire extinguishing system. Manual fire extinguishers are also installed at strategic locations in the room.

Inspection of the stack room is conducted on bimonthly basis by a commercial pest control firm. The collections and the stack room are vacuum-cleaned by the staff.

#### **4.4.5 Microfilming of the Newspapers**

Microfilming of newspapers in PNM started in 1983 as a cooperative project under SCOM. Currently, nine titles of the national newspapers are microfilmed (see Appendix D). For the newspapers with variant editions, for example, *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, the central editions are microfilmed.

The filming is operated by the Reprographic and Conservation Division in collaboration with the Legal Deposit Division of the Library. It is performed in accordance with ISO standard 2803-1974(E) Photography - Silver-gelatin type Microfilms - Processing and Storage for Archival Purposes.

The newspapers for microfilming are checked thoroughly to ensure that the issues are complete and in chronological order. It is followed by page by page checking to ascertain correct page arrangement and that there is no ink smear, creases, blank or missing pages. Should any imperfection be detected, the copy will be replaced either with the best of the remaining four copies or a replacement copy requested from the publisher.

The preparation of newspapers for microfilming is indeed very laborious and time consuming but it is crucial to adhere to the procedures in order to achieve the ultimate goal of preservation microfilming, ie. obtaining "perfect" surrogates.

The Conservation and Reprography Division had, in 1989, filmed 138 rolls (9,497 feet) of newspapers [20] and 94 rolls (6,881 feet) in 1990 [21]. This constitutes 86% and 83% of the total microfilming work of the Division for the respective years.



Newspapers from 1981 to date have been filmed. To ensure up-to-dateness of microfilming work, the most recent issues are given priority. Retrospective files from 1980 backwards are filmed in batches. Because of the large amount of newspapers to be filmed, the Library gives priority to the production of master negatives. Therefore, although master negatives of the most recent newspapers have been made, the positive copies are still unavailable for use.

The project to produce duplicate negatives began in 1990 [22]. This means that, now, the original negatives could be preserved and used only in the case when a duplicate or working negative need to be replaced. This also means that from 1990, PNM holds three copies of microfilms, ie. the original or master negative, duplicate or working negative and positive copy for use in the reading area.

The master and duplicate negatives are kept in microfilm cabinets located in a separate room at the Conservation and Reprography Division. The temperature and relative humidity maintained are similar to those in the stack room for original newspapers.

In terms of security of materials, they are also only accessible to designated staff. The room is well-equipped with smoke and heat detector, automatic fire extinguishing system and manual fire extinguishers.

The positive microfilm copies are kept in locked microfilm cabinets located in the reading area of Malaysiana Reference Division. Access to the collections is by request made to the staff on duty at the Reference or Enquiry Desk.

#### 4.4.6 Expenditure

PNM receives its funding from the Federal Government. Out of the total library budget for 1992, only RM250,500.00 (1%)(excluding salaries) was allocated for all preservation activities [23]. Expenditure on conservation/binding of newspapers in 1992 was RM18,200.00 [24] which was approximately 7.3% of the total allocation for preservation activities. The sum is very small indeed especially when compared to the acquisition budget for the same year which was about 12.5% of the total library budget[25].

#### 4.4.7 Staffing Level

There are two professional librarians and ten non-professional staff who are directly involved in newspaper preservation

activities. The professional librarians are: the Head of Conservation and Reprography Division, responsible for the overall management of the Division and preservation and conservation of library materials and the Library Officer in-charge of Legal Deposit Collections.

The breakdown of non-professional staff and brief description of their duties are as follows:

Conservation and Reprography Division:

1 Senior Library Assistant - monitors microfilming work and maintenance of microfilm collections, assists the Head of Division in general administration of the Division and financial matters.

2 Junior General Assistants - handle filming of newspapers and other materials, photographic work ie. taking pictures during special events happening in PNM and other general tasks.

Legal Deposit Division

2 Library Assistants - maintain records of library materials, (newspapers, books, seminar papers, maps, posters and audiovisuals), shelving and maintenance of items except newspapers, preparing newspapers for filming and collating seminar papers for binding.

5 Junior General Assistants - processing of newspapers for storage (checking, collating and labelling), shelving and maintenance of stack rooms and collections, perform other duties such as assisting in the preparation of PNM's special projects.

#### 4.4.8 Training

Training in preservation takes the form of short courses, practical attachment and on-the-job training, mainly confined to conservation and restoration work conducted in-house as well as by Arkib Negara Malaysia.

Staff are also sent abroad, for instance, to United Kingdom, Germany and Thailand for practical attachment and attendance at seminars, workshops and conferences.

PNM does not only provide training for its own staff but also for other libraries' staff. As Head of the Library Common User Scheme, it provides training in library and information work to the staff of libraries under the Scheme, ie. libraries of Ministries and government departments. Apart from those libraries, training is also extended to other public and commercial sectors.

It is a compulsory requirement for the non-professional staff of the Library and libraries of the Common User Scheme to attend a Basic Course for Library Assistants, in which one of the subjects taught is preservation and conservation which include aspects such as environmental control, care and handling of library materials, etc.

#### 4.5 Conclusions

The newspaper collections in PNM has been built through legal deposit provisions. With the most recent legislation, PNM becomes the only library in Malaysia to hold most, if not all, of the newspapers published in the country. It is the responsibility of the Library, therefore, to ensure the safety and well-being of the newspapers which, in the future, will be the only comprehensive surviving collection.

Legislation has stipulated PNM's obligation to preserve the collections. Various policies were drawn up as early as the 1970s for the preservation of originals for posterity as well as for format conversion to offer greater accessibility to their intellectual content.

However, financial provision has been insufficient for the Library to undertake adequate preservation measures. Lack of funds in the past has deterred the Library from providing

adequate and suitable storage for housing the collections. As a consequence, part of the collection is in poor physical condition.

Although in more recent years, the Library's budget has increased tremendously, the amount allotted for preservation activities in general is still negligible compared to allocation for acquisition.

Compact shelving provided in the purpose-built storage area in the new building has increased space for housing the newspapers. But considering that the building was planned some twenty years ago against the rapid growth of the newspaper collection as well as other materials , the problem of storage space prevails.

The problem of lack of storage space is not only faced by PNM but also by the designated regional depositories. Because of this, newspapers intended for retention in those depositories have not been delivered to their appropriate destinations, which further aggravates the problem in PNM.

In spite of this, other aspects of preservation, for example, environmental control and collection maintenance, have greatly improved.

In terms of methods used to preserve the original, PNM has used several methods. Part of the collections are bound while the rest are kept, loose, in cardboard jackets and corrugated boxes. Binding of newspapers and design and construction of cardboard jackets were done in-house by the staff of Conservation and Reprography Division. Boxes were designed in-house but made by a commercial company.

Microfilming of newspapers is a national cooperative venture. It is carried out in-house and ISO standard on microfilming is followed to ensure quality production. PNM is now embarking on the project of producing duplicate negatives in current as well as retrospective microfilming work. This is to ensure that the master negatives will be preserved in the true sense.

In terms of staffing, it can be seen that there are two levels of staff who are involved in the activities of newspaper preservation, ie. management/supervisory level (Head of Division, Librarian in-charge of the collection and Senior Library Assistant) and the work-force (Library Assistants and Junior General Assistants). Their duties are not merely concern with newspaper preservation but they also perform other tasks. This, in many ways, affects their efficiency because newspapers accumulate quickly and create backlogs.

Training in preservation and conservation of library materials, in general, is provided through basic courses, practical attachment and on-the-job training. These are conducted in-house as well as in Arkib Negara Malaysia. Staff are also sent abroad for practical attachment at institutions dealing with preservation and conservation of library materials. Training is provided to staff of public and commercial agencies' libraries. Although there is no special programme on preservation awareness especially geared to newspaper preservation, the staff are, nonetheless, made aware of the need to preserve library materials through the conducted courses.



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## CHAPTER FIVE

### NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The awareness of the tremendous importance of newspapers has driven many countries throughout the world to try to collect and preserve their newspapers. Microfilming has been the prominent method of preservation. In the United Kingdom, the British Library Newspaper Library has over forty years of experience in microfilming of newspapers, initially to fill the gaps caused by wartime damage. (In the United States filming of the newspapers began in the 1930s. But these have been mainly independent efforts).

The newspaper publishers in general are less concerned for the after-life of their newspapers. This is quite understandable in view of the more pressing concern of the urgent need to keep up with the daily or weekly production schedule. Although some of them maintain their collections in the form of news cuttings which are indexed, classified and in a few recent cases, automated, it is the collections maintained in the libraries which mainly ensure that newspapers remain available for future use.

In UK, as in many countries of the world, public libraries have a long tradition of collecting and preserving newspapers. Many municipal libraries, from their inception,

acquired local newspapers and included them in their local history collections. Most academic libraries, particularly those with area studies programmes, hold national newspapers on microfilms. The legal deposit libraries, such as the National Library of Wales and Scotland, collect all newspapers published in their respective countries.

The last two decades witnessed a more intense effort in newspaper preservation with the emergence of cooperative preservation programmes in many nations.

The focus of this chapter is on the UK Newsplan projects and the preservation activities in the British Library Newspaper Library (BLNL) and the Department of Oriental and India Office Collection of the British Library (OIOC).

## 5.1 The Newsplan

### 5.1.1 Background - Aims and Objectives

The Newsplan project was developed to promote and coordinate the filming and preservation of the old and current UK local newspapers. It involves the British Library, the Regional Library Systems, the National Library of Scotland, Wales and Ireland, public library authorities, local record offices and newspaper publishers.

It is divided into two phases: firstly, the research phase to identify preservation needs of local files and determine priorities for future collections. Secondly, the implementation phase, which is developing action plans involving cooperation between the British Library, local library authorities and other relevant agencies.

Newsplan was initiated by the South West Regional Library System. A pilot project was conducted in 1983-4 to collect information about the physical condition of surviving newspaper files, how much microfilming had been done and the priorities for their preservation.

The report, published as *NEWSPLAN: report of the pilot project in the South West* by Rosemary Wells [1] had shown that systematic assessment of preservation needs could be done. It had also indicated the enormous and urgent task that the country has to face. According to Johansson [2] if the South West is typical in the volume of its newspaper publishing and the amount of microfilming already achieved, there are about 350-400 camera years of work to be done to film all UK papers up to the end of 1985.

The success of the pilot project led to the formation of steering committees in other regions. The total cost of the research phase was estimated at £500,000 [3] to be shared between the British Library and the regions' libraries.

### 5.1.2 Progress and Achievements

Newsplan has achieved considerable success. According to Geoffrey Hamilton [4], eight regions have completed the research stage. The reports from the South West Regional Library System, the Northern Region, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside and Ireland have been published.

Scotland, which has been able to make use of previous data collected for the compilation of a bibliography of Scottish newspapers, is now completing its research stage. London and South East Region (LASER), however, is faced with some difficulties with regard to coverage of region because of the size of the region and the large number of national and local newspaper publications.

The projects have revealed that there is considerable awareness and motivation on the part of libraries and archives to preserve the newspapers. Microfilm has been the predominant means of preservation. However, the poor quality of some of the microfilms indicated insufficient awareness and knowledge of microfilming requirements.

There has been duplication in microfilming due to the lack of sources of information about their availability elsewhere. The findings of the research projects has also developed a widespread concern of the need for a national

policy on the preservation of the original newspapers.

There are other advantages derived from the projects such as the establishment of a body of expertise. The steering committee formed for each project becomes a useful forum for the exchange of information. There has been an increase in awareness of preservation issues through the wide publicity of the steering committees' works. Newspaper titles and holdings which were previously unknown have been discovered which will help fill the gaps in the libraries' collections.

The action programmes are expected to be expensive. About twelve years ago, the Mellon Foundation in the United States, had provided grants to the British Library for preservation microfilming, but excluded newspapers from the scope of the grant. However, the Foundation has recently decided that Newsplan filming projects could be considered for financial supports provided that they adhere strictly to appropriate international standards and produce a genuine master negative and a working negative [5]. The Mellon Foundation is also funding the establishment of a microfilming unit in the National Library of Scotland.

"The decision", said Mr. Hamilton, "is a very important development and could help forward very considerably the progress of Newsplan" [6].



## 5.2 The British Library Newspaper Library

### 5.2.1 Background

The British Library Newspaper Library (BLNL) originated as the newspaper collections of the British Museum. A Repository was built at Colindale to outhouse the collections when the Museum's storage was exhausted. The building was, later, expanded to accommodate all newspapers later than 1800 (including colonial and foreign titles). The Newspaper Library was detached from the British Museum and became part of the British Library in 1973.

The Library provides a unique facility for the collection, preservation and use of newspapers, with separate reading areas for original copies and microfilms, a bindery and conservation workshop and its own microfilming and reprographic units. It is "thought to be the only large integrated newspaper service, combining all functions on one site, in the world" [7].

### 5.2.2 Collection

The holdings, occupying approximately 18 miles of shelving, comprised nearly 600,000 volumes and parcels of newspapers and magazines and over 270,000 reels of positive microfilms. The increase annual is about 6,000 volumes for

newspapers and magazines and about 11,000 reels of positive microfilm.

The collections consist mainly of daily and weekly newspapers and periodicals, including London newspapers and journals from 1801 onwards, English provincial, Welsh, Scottish and Irish newspapers from 1700 onward. The United Kingdom collections are very comprehensive from about 1840 onward, apart from the English and Welsh titles which were destroyed during the war.

The Library has representative collections of newspapers in Western and Slavonic languages from almost every country of the world. There is also an extensive collection of newspapers from the Commonwealth countries received through colonial copyright deposit [8], including a number of Malaysian titles, which are "not complete runs but may be in a better condition than those in their own country" [9].

### 5.2.3 Preservation Activities

#### a) Microfilming

BLNL has started microfilming its newspapers more than forty years ago. The initial intention was to film newspapers which were damaged during the war and volumes borrowed from other libraries to fill the gaps. Its microfilming unit is now a permanent feature and has 27

units of 35mm cameras which are housed in purpose-built accommodation.

The unit is an essential instrument in implementing the Library's preservation policy for newspapers which, since the mid-1980s, has been changed from preservation of originals to preservation on microfilms. Prior to that, although microfilming was carried out, the concentration was more on the filming of retrospective foreign materials.

The policy is now applied to local papers published after 1985. Older British newspapers are also preserved on microfilm. In addition, BLNL also buys microfilms which are of acceptable quality produced by commercial bureau.

The Library earns considerable revenue from microfilming work done for external customers, mostly the public libraries. According to Kelvin Ithell [11], there are about 120 regular customers annually. Their standing orders, normally for three years, are given priority and they are charged at a concessionary rate.

The master negatives that result from filming form part of the BLNL's preservation collections which will be recorded on the National Register of Preservation Microforms. For this reason there is strict quality control in filming where every negative receives frame-by-frame visual check.

BLNL is up-to-date in filming of about 100 daily newspapers and is filming up to 1988 publications of the weekly titles. In terms of footage, the Library holds approximately 15,000,000 feet of newspapers on microfilms [12].

BLNL has benefited from the Newsplan projects whereby it is now able to fill a number of gaps which had occurred in its collections caused by various factors, particularly the bombing incident during World War II. The projects have highlighted the existence of some previously unknown titles and holdings which in some cases are unique, for instance, the Plymouth Central Library's holdings of the *Western Morning News*. The British Library's set had been destroyed during the war. The newspapers have been restored and filmed by the Library [13].

The most recent development in terms of preservation microfilming is the production of duplicate negatives undertaken by the Library in early 1993. This will enable the Library to preserve the master negatives in a well-protected remote storage and used them only in special cases such as when a duplicate negative needs to be replaced.

## b) Original Newspapers

British newspapers constitute part of the permanent National Printed Archive and as such BLNL has a national responsibility to retain all the newspapers published in UK which are received through legal deposit.

The originals are retained based on the consideration that although there are microfilm surrogates, they are not perfect means of preserving the information content of the originals in terms of coloured illustrations. The general expectation of the library, scholarly and UK publishing communities has also influenced the Library's policy for the retention of UK newspapers in original form.

As far as foreign newspapers are concerned, the Library's policy, which was approved by the British Library Board in July 1990, is that of disposal after microfilming. The disposal of foreign newspapers after filming is undertaken with the expectation that the originals are likely to be retained in the national libraries of the original countries.

As a consequence of this policy, space equivalent to 18 months intake for legal deposit material has been released. BLNL is accelerating the disposal process to release up to 8 further years equivalent of such space.

Until about mid-1980s, BLNL was binding its newspapers. It was realised that binding of the originals was not a means of long-term preservation unless further action was going to be taken because of the inevitable deterioration in the paper.

In 1986, the British Library's preservation policies and activities were examined by a Cabinet Office scrutiny team. Based on the recommendation of the report [14], all British local newspapers are now filmed on receipt, after which the originals are wrapped in acid-free paper and shelved horizontally.

Wrapping in acid-free paper retards the deterioration of newsprint. This is confirmed when a sample of parcels wrapped at various times during the past forty years was recently examined. This test showed that papers which are wrapped flat immediately after microfilming can be expected to remain in a stable and good condition for many years. It is also a relatively low-cost method of preserving the originals.

The national newspapers are still being bound even though they are microfilmed because heavy demand has necessitated that both microfilm and original copies be made available.

Lamination of older newspapers in its collection is also carried out by its Bindery and Conservation Workshop. This

work is carried out alongside with the microfilming programme whereby the newspapers are microfilmed before they are laminated and bound. In this way, the Library is able to get good quality microfilms and a well-preserved originals as well.

### 5.3 The Department of Oriental and India Office Collection the British Library (OIOC) - The Malay and Indonesian Collections

#### 5.3.1 Background

The Department of Oriental, Printed Books and Manuscripts was formed in 1867 as a part of the British Library. The name was later changed to Oriental Collection.

When the India Office Library became part of the British Library in 1984, the two oriental departments were combined and renamed the Department of Oriental and India Office Collection (OIOC).

This department differs from the other departments in the British Library in terms of its scope of coverage which are multimedia and multilingual in nature. This is partly because of the historic reasons in which it grew. Unlike the other departments, such as the Department of Western Manuscripts, the Department of Printed Books or the British Library Newspaper Library which are divided by form or

media, the division of OIOC is by language. There are various types of materials, manuscripts, printed books, newspapers and periodicals in oriental languages such as Malay language, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew and other non-European languages.

### 5.3.2 Collection

From the early days the emphasis was more on manuscripts and printed books such as dictionaries and grammar books to help people learn the language. There are Malay language books which are translations of the bible and testament used by the missionaries in Indonesia and Malaysia. The British Library has a very important and "...probably the best collection in the world of these early Malay printing materials from the 17th century onwards. The printed collection is the strength of the OIOC" [15].

The strength of the collections is greatly related to the legal status of the British Museum. The Books Enactments (1916)[16], The Printers and Publishers Ordinance (1835)[17] and The Preservation of Books Ordinance (1950)[18] had provided for one copy of every publication, including newspapers, printed in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States to be deposited in the British Museum.



Currently, there are approximately 200 Malay manuscripts, 10,000 printed books and 200 titles of Malay newspapers and periodicals available in the OIOC. This collection forms only a small part of the Library's total holdings of approximately 60,000 manuscripts and half-a-million printed books in other oriental languages.

### 5.3.3 Preservation Activities

#### a) Microfilming

One of the ongoing programmes carried out by OIOC is the microfilming of library materials, mainly newspapers, received through colonial legal deposit or copyright legislations. The project serves two purposes: firstly, to fulfill the need of various national institutions from countries such as Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Singapore which have programmes to microfilm publications which are not available in their own countries and secondly, to cater for the Department's conservation needs.

Some of the materials, particularly the older newspapers and printed books, are too fragile to be handled by readers. Therefore, microfilms are supplied to the readers for their research needs.

Most of the microfilming work is done in-house using the facilities of the India Office, although the newspapers, in

some instances, are filmed by the microfilming unit of BLNL.

The master negatives resulting from the filming work are stored in a remote storage. Duplicate or working negatives made from the master negatives are used to reproduce positive microfilm copies to fulfil customers' orders.

Readers are also served with the same negatives since OIOC does not produce positive copies for reading room use. This has been the practice since two years ago when the Departments were merged. This policy differs from that of BLNL which has always produced positive microfilm copies to be used by readers in the reading room, partly due to inadequate storage for microfilms in OIOC.

b) Original Newspapers

The microfilming of the newspapers, apart from the conservation reasons, is carried out in view of discarding the originals. Newspapers, given their physical size and fragile characteristics, have always presented storage problems to any institution that attempts to preserve them in original form.

However, the current practice of OIOC is to retain the original newspapers particularly those acquired through the colonial copyright legislation which did not provide for

the disposal of those items by sale, donation or otherwise. Thus, most of the Malay newspapers and periodicals which were obtained via legislative means are retained. They are wrapped in acid-free paper, stored and not accessible for use.

#### 5.4 Conclusions

The newspaper preservation in UK is primarily by microfilming. This is greatly achieved through Newsplan projects and by the intensive microfilming programmes of the British Library Newspaper Library and the Department of Oriental and India Office Collection.

The original newspapers are retained by BLNL and OIOC as part of their national and legal responsibilities. The collection of Malay language newspapers and periodicals maintained by OIOC is of particular significant to Malaysia because there lies the "best collection in the world" [19] of the nation's heritage.

The recent policy of the disposal of foreign materials adopted by BLNL has a great implication on the preservation issues of the countries where the materials originated.

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4. Interview with Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, Head of British Library Newspaper Library, 16 June, 1993.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
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8. *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.
9. As ref. 4.

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13. Johannson, ref. 1.
14. Hamilton, ref. 10.
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## CHAPTER SIX

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Summary

The summary below is grouped according to the heading of each chapter with additional heading on the role of PNM and SCOM.

##### 6.1.1 History of Newspaper Publishing in Malaysia and the Importance of Newspaper Preservation

Newspaper publishing began in Malaysia in the early 19th Century with the first newspapers published in the country being in English and Chinese language. Tamil and Malay newspapers were relatively young compared to their English and Chinese counterparts.

The early newspapers shared many similar characteristics. They were mostly weekly publications. They were mainly for the consumption of their individual communities. In some cases, there was uncertainty as to which title was published first and in many cases, they were often shortlived. The titles that survive today are mainly those began from the 1920s onwards.

There were more newspaper titles published during the early period, particularly English and Malay language newspapers, compared to the present day. However, there has been a tremendous increase in terms of circulation due to the rapid development that has taken place since Malaysia achieved its independence.

Newspapers form part of the nation's heritage. They are one of the primary sources of historical and social information. They form a record of the history of development of the country and as such can be useful sources for research in a wide range of areas and subjects. Therefore, it is crucial that they are appropriately and systematically preserved.

#### **6.1.2 Newspaper Preservation Activities in Malaysia - Background and Survey**

Cooperative effort in newspaper preservation revolves around SCOM which is a sub-committee formed to undertake microfilming of library materials. Individual efforts in preservation of newspapers are undertaken by the newspaper publishers' libraries. This has led to duplication of microfilming work.

The survey reveals that the most prominent method of preservation is microfilming. The filming is done either in-house or by a commercial microfilming service.

Original newspapers are retained not only by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia and Arkib Negara Malaysia as part of their legal and national obligations but also by number of individual newspaper publishers' libraries who retain their own publications. The newspapers for retention are mostly bound, an operation which is carried out in-house or using the service of outside commercial binder. In the case of Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, newspapers are now no longer bound but kept in specially designed corrugated boxes.

The survey reveals the major problems in newspaper preservation to be inadequate funding and staffing, inadequate storage, lack of training specifically in newspaper preservation and lack of awareness.

It is found that few libraries have a written preservation policy. The survey also reveals that only a few libraries have a disaster preparedness plan which is only confined to the formation of a fire prevention committee.

#### **6.1.3 Newspaper Preservation in Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia**

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia is the only library holding a comprehensive collection of Malaysian newspapers from 1966 onwards as well as a number of early newspapers.



As a national library and a national repository it has strived to fulfil its legal and national obligations. It has been successful in building the collection but it has not been able, in the past, to provide adequate measures for the preservation of original newspapers because of insufficient funds, inadequate storage and lack of essential facilities for environmental control.

PNM, however, has made considerable progress in its microfilming project in which it is up-to-date with the filming of current issues and is now filming the restropective files.

The completion of the new building is a milestone for the library and has a great implication on the preservation of library materials. The transfer of the newspaper collection into its purpose-built stack with proper environmental control is a major step in ensuring the long term survival of the collection.

Other significant developments that have recently taken placed in PNM in relation to preservation are: the placement of the Conservation and Reprography Division and the National Depository under the Collection Building Programme; production of duplicate negatives; and the creation of a comprehensive preservation policy.

However, PNM has yet to prepare a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan which is a fundamental element in preservation management.

#### 6.1.4 Preservation Activities in United Kingdom

Considerable success has been achieved in preserving UK newspapers in particular and other newspapers in general through the Newsplan projects and the preservation microfilming activities of the BLNL and OIOC.

Newsplan projects have revealed that libraries and archives were aware of the need to preserve the newspapers. Preservation is mainly undertaken by microfilming. However, the less than satisfactory quality of some of the microfilms gives an indication of insufficient knowledge, on the part of the libraries and archives, of microfilming requirements.

Newsplan has led to the formation of a body of expertise which has become a forum for the exchange of information. It has led to an increase in awareness of preservation issues which, in turn, has developed a widespread concern of the need for a national policy on the preservation of original newspapers.

BLNL has an outstanding collection of UK newspapers as well as an international newspaper collection with particular

strength in the 19th to early 20th Century newspapers from the ex-colony countries.

It has been active in microfilming work which, apart from being a preservation activity, has also become a business venture. BLNL has greatly benefited from the Newsplan projects in terms of filling the gaps in its collection.

The OIOC has also embarked on microfilming its collection, particularly the newspapers and periodicals received through the colonial copyright legislation, to cater for its readers' needs as well as requests from the country where the materials originated. The negatives resulting from the microfilming work form part of the British Library's preservation archive.

#### 6.1.5 Role of PNM and SCOM

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia and SCOM have a vital role to play in the preservation of Malaysian newspapers, which is a gigantic task not even a national library can undertake alone. PNM, as a national library, holds the responsibility to upkeep the nation's heritage. It needs to work closely with SCOM and other interested parties to ensure that this task is carried out effectively.

## 6.2 Recommendations

Recommendations below are grouped according to the two major agencies at which they are directed, Perpustakaan Negara and Sub-committee on Microforms. Under these headings they are further divided by topic. Where recommendations are directed at SCOM, PNM's involvement as key member is inevitable and vital but at the same time other interested parties should be encourage to participate and to instigate developments.

### 6.2.1 Recommendations for Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

#### a) Preservation Policy and Disaster Preparedness Plan

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia has recently established a comprehensive preservation policy but has yet to prepare a disaster preparedness plan. Therefore, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia should -

- i) encourage other libraries to establish their own preservation policy and plan in consultation with PNM to ensure coordination and rationalisation.
- ii) set up a task force to draw up a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the Library. This task should be considered as most urgent and given the highest priority.

**b) Retention of Original Newspapers**

With regard to the storage problems at the two external depositories, USM and Sabah State Library, and in view of the fact that one copy of the originals is already retained as well as the availability of microfilm master negatives, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia should -

i) review its current policy of retaining two additional copies of legal deposit newspapers at these depositories.

ii) consider and plan for a separate purpose-built and design storage for storing its microfilm master negatives.

**c) Exchange Programme**

i) Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia in consultation with other SCOM members, particularly Arkib Negara Malaysia and University of Malaya Library should consider an exchange programme for microfilms with British Library Newspaper Library and the Department of Oriental and India Office Collection. The exchange of duplicate negatives should be preferred to positive microfilm copies to enable it to generate further copies for local consumption.

ii) At the national level, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, should establish links with newspaper publishers to establish an exchange programme.

d) Education and Awareness

In recognition that staff education and awareness in preservation is an essential element, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia should -

i) enhance its training programme by introducing sessions specifically dealing with newspapers and their preservation.

ii) organise a continuous preservation awareness programme for its staff which could include regular talks, exhibitions, etc. on the importance of newspapers and their preservation and the need for good housekeeping practice.

e) Funding

The general problems of newspaper preservation in Malaysian libraries include lack or inadequate storage, lack or inadequate facilities and lack or inadequate staffing. Central to these problems is financial support which is often lacking or insufficient. This is due to the reluctance on the part of funders to provide adequate funds because of the lack of awareness and knowledge of the issue. On this ground, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia -

i) needs to raise general awareness of issues and significance of newspaper preservation to help convince

unders of the need to provide adequate resources for an effective preservation programme and to enable PNM to carry out its preservation policy effectively. PNM could, for instance, hold seminars, with newspaper preservation as the central theme, for key government officials at national level.

ii) working closely with SCOM, should conduct a nationwide preservation survey of newspaper collections. This survey would look at conditions, storage and preservation needs of newspapers. The approach used in UK Newsplan projects could be adopted and the experience of the Newsplan project officers could be drawn upon.

iii) Based on the results of the survey, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia should prepare an estimated costing for future preservation activities to include microfilming, environmentally controlled and monitored storage condition, etc.

#### **6.2.2 Recommendations for Sub-committee of Microforms**

##### **a) Cooperative Microfilming**

Cooperative microfilming by SCOM members has been in operation for almost twenty years. Since its formation SCOM's membership had increased from seven to twelve institutions but has remained the same for many years. It

is considered appropriate that SCOM should -

i) undertake a revision of its current microfilming activities, update its achievements and identify its problem in order to effectively consider and plan for its future direction.

ii) expand its membership by extending invitation to other libraries particularly the newspaper publishers' libraries to become SCOM's members and participate in its project.

iii) review its earlier agreement on microfilming priority which was based on the needs and priority of individual institution. SCOM members should now give a higher priority to newspaper microfilming in view of the characteristics of the newspapers which cause it to deteriorate faster than other materials such as periodicals.

iv) intensify the microfilming effort by adding more newspaper titles for filming. A target date should be set for the completion of this project. It may not be within the capacity of each members to achieve this target. Based on this assumption, SCOM should consider other avenues such as commercialisation of its microfilming activities.

v) accelerate the preparation of a standard for microfilming which will be the guideline for all institutions which are conducting or intend to start a microfilming programme. This



will ensure the production of microfilms of archival quality for preservation purposes.

As a conclusion, the above recommendations are by no means claimed to be comprehensive but it is felt that they have covered several important aspects of newspaper preservation. It is hoped that these recommendations will be taken into serious consideration by the agencies at which they are directed and other interested parties. It is also hoped that attempts will be made to implement them in view of enhancing the current preservation activities to ensure the survival of Malaysian newspapers for the use of the present and future generations.

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**NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION IN MALAYSIA - QUESTIONNAIRE**

*Preservation - Management of environment and collections to prevent deterioration.*

*Conservation - Repair work/maintenance of individual items.*

Please answer all questions. YES/NO - delete inappropriate answer.

1. a) Name and address of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Telephone No. : \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No. : \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Contact's name (ie. person in charge of newspaper collection/preservation/conservation): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. a) Estimated size of newspaper holding : \_\_\_\_\_ volumes
- b) Microfilms : \_\_\_\_\_ rolls
- c) Number of titles :  
B.Malaysia \_\_\_\_\_ titles      Tamil \_\_\_\_\_ titles  
English \_\_\_\_\_ titles      Others \_\_\_\_\_ titles  
Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ titles
3. a) What percentage of newspaper holdings are intended for permanent retention ? \_\_\_\_\_ %
- b) Does your library have a written preservation policy ? YES/NO  
If yes, please enclose a copy
- c) Does your library have a disaster control plan ? YES/NO  
If yes, please give brief details  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. a) Please rank (1-5) the following languages of publication according to degree of use (1 = heaviest - 5 = lightest)
- B.Malaysia \_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_ Chinese \_\_\_\_
- Tamil \_\_\_\_ Others \_\_\_\_
- b) Which particular period of publication is heavily used ?
- Before 1900 \_\_\_\_ 1900 - 1939 \_\_\_\_
- 1940 - 1969 \_\_\_\_ 1970 onwards \_\_\_\_
- c) Do you instruct library users in the handling of newspapers ? YES/NO
5. a) Do you have an in-house bindery ? YES/NO
- If yes, how many staff are employed there ? \_\_\_\_
- b) Do you make use of outside commercial binders for newspapers ? YES/NO
- c) Do you employ alternatives to binding ? YES/NO
- If yes, please give brief details
- \_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_
6. a) Do you use microforms as a means of preservation of newspapers? YES/NO
- If yes, please give examples
- \_\_\_\_
- If yes, what percentage is of archival quality ? \_\_\_\_%
- b) Do you have in-house microfilming production facilities ? YES/NO
- c) Do you have special storage areas for microfilms ? YES/NO
7. a) Are newspapers stored separately from other library materials ? YES/NO

- b) Do you monitor environmental conditions in:
- i) open access reading areas ? YES/NO
  - ii) closed access stack/repositories ? YES/NO
- c) Can you control storage conditions to meet preservation needs in:
- i) open access reading areas ? YES/NO
  - ii) closed access stack/repositories ? YES/NO
- d) What Relative Humidity and Temperature do you maintain (on average) ?
- R.Humidity \_\_\_\_\_ % Not known \_\_\_\_\_
- Temperature \_\_\_\_\_ oC Not known \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Do you have a systematic procedure for surveying or treating stock on the shelves ? YES/NO
- If yes, please specify:
- Frequency of the survey \_\_\_\_\_
- Types of treatment \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. a) Do you have any in-house programme for preservation awareness for library staff ? YES/NO
- If yes, please give brief details
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Have you or your staff received any training in the field of preservation/conservation ? YES/NO
- If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you cooperate with other libraries with regard to newspaper
- a) acquisition YES/NO
  - b) retention YES/NO
  - c) preservation YES/NO



10. a) What did you spend on conservation and binding of newspapers last year ?

RM \_\_\_\_\_

- b) What did you spend on acquisition of newspapers last year ?

RM \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you think there is a need for a separate national centre in Malaysia for preservation/conservation of national newspapers ?

YES/NO

12. Do you have any further comments or specific problems concerning newspaper preservation/conservation ?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND TIME. I would be most grateful if you could return the questionnaire to me at the following address by May 7th, 1993:

JAMAIAH AINI MANAH,  
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
AND LIBRARY STUDIES,  
LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,  
LEICESTERSHIRE,  
LE11 3TU,  
UNITED KINGDOM.

**PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS IN MALAYSIA**

Twenty questionnaires were sent out to: the National Library of Malaysia, the National Archives of Malaysia, eight university libraries, one news agency library and nine newspaper publishers libraries. Fifteen questionnaires were returned ( 75% response ).

[\* Additional notes/information are provided]

**Findings:**

**2. Estimated size of holdings**

	<u>Nil</u>	<u>&lt;1000</u>	<u>1000-2500</u>	<u>&gt;2500</u>
a) Newspapers (volumes)	4	4	4	3
b) Microfilms (rolls)	3	5	5	2

\* BERNAMA - the National News Agency holds 1.5 million news clippings kept in folders.

\* National Archives of Malaysia has 96,519 volumes of newspapers.

\* National Library of Malaysia has 15,708 volumes of newspapers.

**c) Number of newspaper titles by language**

	<u>Nil</u>	<u>&lt;2</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>6-10</u>	<u>&gt;10</u>
B. Malaysia	3	2	7	1	2
English	3	1	5	2	4
Chinese	6	5	0	2	2
Tamil	10	3	0	0	2
Others	10	2	3	0	0

3 a) What percentage of newspaper holdings are intended for permanent retention

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>No. of libraries</u>
100%	7
50-99%	2
Less than 50%	4
No answer	2

b) Does your library have a written preservation policy

Yes	2
No	12
No answer	1

c) Does your library have a disaster control plan

Yes	4
No	8
No answer	3

4. Use of newspapers by language of publication

a) Language Ranking given by libraries  
 (1 = most used - 5 = least used  
 n.a = not appropriate. e.g 11  
 libraries rank B.Malaysia most  
 used)

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>n.a</u>
B. Malaysia	12	1	1	0	0	1
English	6	8	1	0	0	0
Chinese	2	1	5	1	3	3
Tamil	0	0	1	4	3	7
Others	0	0	0	0	3	12

b) Which particular period of publication is heavily used

<u>Period</u>	<u>No. of libraries</u>
Before 1900	0
1900-1939	1
1940-1969	4
After 1970	15

c) Do you instruct library users in the handling of newspapers

Yes	5
No	10

5 a) Do you have an in-house bindery

Yes	8
No	7

Number of staff employed

<u>No. of staff</u>	<u>No. of Libraries</u>
1 - 5	1
6 - 10	4
11- 15	1
16 and more	1
No answer	1

b) Do you make use of outside commercial binders for newspapers

Yes	5
No	10

c) Do you employ alternatives to binding

Yes	5
No	9
No answer	1

6 a) Do you use microforms as a means of preservation of newspapers

Yes	13
No	2

What percentage is of archival quality

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>No. of Libraries</u>
100%	7
90%	1
45%	1
No answer	4

b) Do you have in-house microfilming production facilities

Yes	8
No	7

c) Do you have special storage areas for microfilms

Yes	12
No	3

7 a) Are newspapers stored separately from other library materials

Yes	11
No	4

b) Do you monitor environmental conditions

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Open access reading areas	3	12
Closed access stack areas	4	11

c) Can you control storage conditions to meet preservation needs

Open access reading areas	4	11
Closed access stack areas	7	8

d) What average Relative Humidity and Temperature do you maintain

RH 50-55% = 4	Not known = 11
Temp. 20-25oC = 5	Not known = 10

e) Do you have a systematic procedure for surveying or treating of stock on the shelves

Yes	6
No	9

8 a) Do you have any in-house programme for preservation awareness for the library staff

Yes	4
No	11

b) Have you or you staff received any training in the field of preservation/conservation

Yes	8
No	7

9. Do you cooperate with other libraries with regard to newspaper

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a) Acquisition	2	13
b) Retention	2	13
c) Preservation	4	11

10. Expenditure on

	<u>NA*</u>	<u>&lt;2000</u>	<u>2001-5000</u>	<u>&gt;5000</u>
a) Conservation/Binding	7	2	5	1
b) Acquisition*	8	1	3	3

\* NA = not available

\* PNM - acquisition through the Legal Deposit Act.

11. Do you think there is a need for a separate national centre in Malaysia for preservation/conservation of national newspapers

Yes	11
No	4

12. Comments or specific problems concerning newspaper preservation/conservation

Space	4
Staffing	1
Cost/fund	1
Expertise	0
Retrieval system	1
No comments	9

**LIST OF THE LIBRARIES:**  
(Address and contact person).

- 1) PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA,  
(National Library of Malaysia),  
232, JALAN TUN RAZAK,  
50572 KUALA LUMPUR.  
  
Tel: 6-03-2933488/3150/3626/3048/3509  
Fax: 6-03-2927899  
Librarian: Head of National Depository Division
  
- 2) ARKIB NEGARA MALAYSIA,  
(National Archives of Malaysia),  
JALAN DUTA,  
50568 KUALA LUMPUR.  
  
Tel: 6-03-2543244  
Fax: 6-03-2555679  
Archivist: Puan Daresah Ismail/Puan Norizah Talib

**University Libraries:**

- 3) UNIVERSITI ISLAM ANTARABANGSA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(International Islamic University, Library),  
JALAN UNIVERSITI,  
46700 PETALING JAYA,  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.  
  
Tel: 6-03-7555322  
Fax: 6-03-7579598  
Deputy Chief Librarian: Cik Kalsom Sharif
  
- 4) UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(National University of Malaysia, Library),  
43600 BANGI,  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.  
  
Tel: 6-03-8250199  
Fax: 6-03-8250667  
Chief Librarian: Encik Zainal Azman bin Rajudin



- 5) UNIVERSITI MALAYA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(University of Malaya, Library),  
LEMBAH PANTAI,  
59100 KUALA LUMPUR.  
  
Tel: 6-03-7575887/7560022  
Fax: 6-03-7573661  
Librarian: Encik Ibrahim Ismail
- 6) UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(University of Agriculture, Malaysia, Library),  
43400 SERDANG,  
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Fax: 6-03-9483745  
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- 7) UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(University of Science Malaysia, Library),  
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Fax: 6-04-871526  
Chief Librarian: Mr. Lim Chee Hong
- 8) UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA,  
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Chief Librarian: Puan Che Sham bt. Mohd. Darus
- 9) UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA,  
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(Northern University of Malaysia, Library),  
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KEDAH DARUL AMAN.  
  
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Chief Librarian: Dr. Oli Mohamed Abdul Hamid

- 10) INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI MARA,  
PERPUSTAKAAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK,  
(MARA Institute of Technology, Library),  
40450 SHAH ALAM,  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.

Tel: 6-03-5564041

Fax: 6-03-

Chief Librarian: Puan Rahmah Mohammad

#### **Selected Newspaper Publishers:**

- 11) NEW STRAITS TIMES PRESS SDN. BHD.  
BALAI BERITA,  
31, JALAN RIONG,  
59100 KUALA LUMPUR.

Tel: 6-03-2745444

Fax: 6-03-2821434

Editorial Consultant: Mr. Alan Jenkins

Librarian: Ms. Cecilia Tan Chun Huang

- 12) STAR PUBLICATIONS (MALAYSIA) BERHAD,  
No.13, JALAN 13/6,  
46200 PETALING JAYA.  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.

Tel: 6-03-7578811

Fax: 6-03-7554039/7551280

Group Editor: Mr. V.K.Chin

Librarian: Mr. Yeoh Thean Kheng

- 13) UTUSAN MELAYU (M) BERHAD,  
46M, JALAN LIMA melalui  
JALAN CHAN SOW LIN,  
55200 KUALA LUMPUR.

Tel: 6-03-2217055/070-072/049/151

Fax: 6-03-2227876/2220911

Group Editor: Hj. Mohd. Nor Shamsudin (Utusan Malaysia)

Hj. Zainuddin Maidin (Utusan Melayu)

Librarian: Puan Maimunah Abdul Rashid

- 14) NANYANG SIANG PAU SDN. BHD.  
80, JALAN RIONG,  
59100 KUALA LUMPUR.
- Tel: 6-03-2825133/4089  
Fax: 6-03-2821991  
Chief Editor: Mr. Teo Bak Kim  
Librarian: Mrs. Wong Jwu Jing Jane
- 15) SIN CHEW JIT POH,  
19, JALAN SEMANGAT,  
46200 PETALING JAYA,  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.
- Tel: 6-03-7577777  
Fax: 6-03-7556881/7570627  
Chief Editor: Mr. Liew Chen Chuan  
Librarian: Mr. Lim Yow Meng
- 16) MALAYAN THUNG PAU DAILY NEWS SDN. BHD.  
13, JALAN 13/6,  
46200 PETALING JAYA,  
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN.
- Tel: 6-03-7577911  
Fax: 6-03-7577798/7577641  
Chief Editor: Mr. Goh Tuck Hai  
Librarian: nil
- 17) TAMIL NESAN (M) SDN. BHD.  
28, JALAN YEW melalui  
PASAR PUDU, P.O.BOX 10299,  
55100 KUALA LUMPUR.
- Tel: 6-03-2216411/2216495  
Fax: 6-03-221044  
Chief Editor: Mr. V.Vivakanandan  
Librarian: Mr. V. Vivakanandan
- 18) SARAWAK PRESS SDN. BHD.  
JALAN NIPAH,  
P.O.BOX 138,  
93700 KUCHING, SARAWAK.
- Tel: 6-082-424411/5 (Business)  
6-082-241710 (Editorial)  
Fax: 6-082-482330  
Chief Editor: Francis Siah  
Librarian: nil

- 19) SYARIKAT SABAH TIMES BHD.,  
P.O.BOX 10525,  
88805 KOTA KINABALU,  
SABAH.

Tel: 6-088-249111/5

Fax: 6-088-249222

Chief Editors: Mr. Sitol Mintow (English Edition)

Mr. Emin Madi (Malay Edition)

Mr. Christopher Buboh (Kadazan Edition)

Librarian: nil

- 20) PERTUBUHAN BERITA NASIONAL MALAYSIA (BERNAMA)  
PERPUSTAKAAN,  
(The Malaysian National News Agency, Library)  
P.O.BOX 10024,  
50700 KUALA LUMPUR.

Tel: 6-03-2939933

Fax: 6-03-2981102

Chief Librarian: Puan Hajjah Nor Esah Mohd. Said

LIST OF NEWSPAPER/JOURNAL/SERIAL TITLES MICROFILMED BY  
THE INSTITUTIONS UNDER PERPUN (UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND  
NATIONAL LIBRARY)

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM)  
(University of Technology, Malaysia)

- Newspaper - Nil
- Journal - Nil
- Others - Special collections consist of works  
written by the students and staff of  
UTM and works about UTM

UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA (UPM)  
(Agricultural University of Malaysia)

- Newspaper - Nil
- Journal - Pertanika (vol.1, 1977- )
- Others - Theses and project papers by the  
students and staff of UPM

DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA (DBP)  
(The Literary and Language Agency)

- Newspaper - 1. Berita Harian (no.1, 1957- )  
2. Mingguan Malaysia (no.1, 30/8/64- )  
3. Utusan Zaman (no.1, 1947- )  
4. Harian Kota (1986- )  
5. All weekly tabloid in Bahasa Malaysia  
6. All newspapers before and after the war
- Journal - 25 currently published journals in  
Bahasa Malaysia; Dewan Pelajar, Dewan  
Siswa, Dewan Sastera, Dewan Masyarakat,  
Dewan Budaya, Dewan Bahasa, Wanita,  
Utusan Filem & Fesyen, URTV, Keluarga,  
Jelita, Remaja, Aktual, Mastika, Sarina,  
Era, Hawa, Dian, Diskusi, Famili, Prisma,  
Varia Sari, Al-Islam, Dakwah, Kiblat.

- Others - Manuscripts  
 Administrative records of DBP  
 Books published by DBP  
 Special collections (old and rare books)  
 of DBP

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM)  
(Science University of Malaysia)

- Newspaper - 1. Mingguan Timor (Penang)  
 2. National Echo  
 3. Sunday Echo  
 4. New Straits Times  
 5. New Sunday Times  
 6. The Star (Penang)  
 7. Kwong Wah Yit Poh  
 8. Nanyang Siang Pau

- Journal - 1. The Malayan Nature Journal/The Journal  
 of Malayan Nature Society (1940-1976)  
 2. Malaysian Forester (1934-67)  
 3. Dewan Bahasa (vol.1,1957- )  
 4. Dewan Masyarakat (vol.1,1963- )  
 5. Federation Museum Journal(vol.1,1905- )  
 6. Forum Pembangunan (vol.1,1972/1973- )  
 7. Malaysian Agricultural Journal/  
 (Malayan Agricultural Journal)  
 (vol.10-31,1922-48;vol.40,1957- )  
 8. Malaysian Management Review (vol.1,1966-)  
 9. Mastika (1969- )  
 10. Sarawak Museum Journal (vol.1,9111/13- )  
 11. Akademika (1972- )  
 12. Bank Negara Malaysia, Buletin Ekonomi  
 Suku tahunan (1972- )  
 13. Bank Negara Malaysia, Quarterly Economic  
 Bulletin (1968- )  
 14. Buletin Pendidikan (1973- )  
 15. Development Forum (1969- )  
 16. Dewan Sastera (1972- )  
 17. Economic Bulletin (1975- )  
 18. Ilmu Alam (1972- )  
 19. Jernal Antropologi dan Sosiologi (1975-)  
 20. Jernal Undang-Undang (1974- )  
 21. Jurnal Pendidikan (1970- )  
 22. FAMA Commodity Bulletin, (1970- )  
 23. FAMA Quarterly Commodity Statistics (1970)  
 24. Majlis Pengeluar-Pengeluar Getah.  
 Monthly Statistical Bulletin (1978- )  
 25. Malayan Economic Review (1956- )  
 26. Anggaran Hasil dan Perbelanjaan Malaysia  
 (1963- )  
 27. Kementerian Pelajaran, BahagianPerancangan  
 dan Penyelidikan Pelajaran, Educational  
 Statistics of Malaysia (1938- )

28. Malaysia, Perbendaharaan. Economic Report. (1972- )
29. Malaysia, Perbendaharaan. Laporan Ekonomi. (1972- )
30. Malaysian Business (1979- )
31. Mimbar Sosialis (English ed.)(1972- )
32. Mimbar Sosialis (Malay ed.)(1971- )
33. UMBC Economic Review (1965- )

Others - Theses USM  
Seminar papers  
Newspaper cuttings

UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM)  
(National University of Malaysia)

Newspaper - Nil

- Journal -
1. Alam Sekitar (vol.1, 1976-vol.10,1985) (incomplete)
  2. Bahana (no.1, 1966-no.37, 1982) (late publication)
  3. Brunei Museum Journal (vol.1, 1969-1986) (late publication)
  4. Intisari (vol.1-3, 1970)(ceased)
  5. Jebat (no.1,1971-1986)
  6. Jurnal Akademika (vol.1, 1972-1986)
  7. Jurnal Antropologi dan Sosiologi (vol.1,1971-vol.1,1983- ) (late publication)
  8. Jurnal Budaya Melayu (vol.2, 1976-vol.5, 1982- ) (late publication)
  9. Jurnal Ilmu Alam (vol.1,1972-vol.1,1982-) (late publication)
  10. Jurnal Pendidikan (vol.1,1975-vol.9,1982-) (late publication)
  11. Jurnal Sains Malaysiana (vol.1,1972-1986)
  12. Leader (vol.1,1972-vol.3,1974)(ceased)
  13. Majalah Psiologi (vol.1.1976-vol.4.,1979) (ceased)
  14. Malayan Economic Review (vol.1,1956-1986)
  15. Malayan Law Journal (vol.1,1932-1986)
  16. Malaysia in History (vol.1,1954-1986) (incomplete)
  17. Malaysia Business (1972-1986)
  18. Sabah Society Journal (vol.2,1964-vol.7, 1982)
  19. Southeast Asian Archives (vol.1,1968-vol.12,1978)

Others - Language and Literature books in Malay language  
Practical Training Reports  
Special Collections

PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA (PNM)  
(National Library of Malaysia)

- Newspaper - 1. Sin Chew Jit Poh (central ed)(1968-1969;  
1971-1975;1977-1979;1982-1983)(1970;1976;  
1980;1981;1984-1986 not yet completed)  
2. Tamil Nesan (1966-1980;1982-1983;1985)  
(1981;1984 & 1986 not yet completed)  
3. The Malay Mail and Sunday Mail (1966-1985)  
1986 not yet completed)  
4. Utusan and Mingguan Malaysia (1967-1985)  
(1986 not yet completed)  
5. New Life Post (1979)(1980 not yet  
completed)(1978,1981-86 not yet filmed)  
6. Wah Seong Press (1980, 1983-86 not yet  
completed)(1974-1979,1981-82 not yet  
filmed)  
7. Shin Min Daily News (1977-1980, 1984-1986  
not yet completed)(1981-1983 not yet  
microfilmed)  
8. Malaya Samacha (not yet microfilmed)  
9. Tamil Malar (not yet microfilmed)

- Journal - 1. Al-Islam (1975-1977;1980-1981;Jan,March-  
July,Sept-Oct, 1978;March-Oct,Dec,1985;  
Jan-Jun,1986)  
2. Diskusi (1978,1980-82)  
3. Balai Muhibbah (no.1,Jan 1970- )  
4. Hikmah (no.1,Jun 1977- )  
5. Bank Negara Malaysia:Laporan tahunan  
(1963- )  
6. Bulletin of the Society of Agricultural  
Scientist Sabah (vol.1,1977-)  
7. Dakwah (n.1,Mar 1970- )  
8. Jurnal Sains Nuklear(v.1,n.1,Mar 1983- )  
9. Kurier (Feb 1978- )  
10. Laporan Ekonomi/Economic Report (1970- )  
11. Laporan Pasaran Harta (1978- )  
12. Nadi Pendidikan (n.1,Ogos 1982- )  
13. Negara (v.1,n.1,Dec 1974- )  
14. Perhilitan (v.1,n.1,Jan 1981- )  
15. Warisan Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia,  
Cawangan Terengganu (n.1, 1978- )

- Others - Malay Manuscript Collections

UNIVERSITI MALAYA (UMM)  
(University of Malaya)

- Newspaper - 1. Straits Times (1958-1974)  
2. New Sunday Times (filmed together with  
Straits Times from 1975+)  
3. Utusan Melayu (1958-1974)  
4. Utusan Zaman (filmed together with  
Utusan Melayu from 1975+)



- Journal - 1. Asia Research Bulletin (v.1-9, 1971-1979/1980)  
 2. Dewan Masyarakat (v.1-15, 1963-77)  
 3. The Educator (v.1-6, 1965/66-1972/73)  
 4. Ekonomi (v.1-12, 1960-1972)  
 5. Foreign Affairs Malaysia (v.2, n.1-2, 1969; v.4-6, 1971-73)  
 6. Journal Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (v.8-18, 1966-1973)  
 7. Journal Geographics (v.1-9, 1965-74)  
 8. Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange Gazette (v.1-2, 1973-1974)  
 9. Majallah Dian (n.1-83, 1962-1975)  
 10. Masa'alah Pendidikan (v.1-2, 1965-1970)  
 11. Mastika (Jan 1950-Dec 1976) (Before 1960; Aug-Dec 1961; Jan 1964; 1970; Jul-Dec 1974; 1975)  
 12. Pemimpin (v.1-8, 1967-1974)  
 13. Sinar Zaman (v.1-4, 1972-1975)  
 14. Tenggara (v.1-5, 1967-1969)

Others - Nil

ARKIB NEGARA MALAYSIA (ANM)  
(National Archives of Malaysia)

Newspaper - Malay:

1. Bintang Timor (1894-1895) (Singapore) (1900) (P.Pinang)
2. Chahaya Pulau Pinang (1904, 1906)
3. Chenderamata (1930)
4. Dewasa (1932)
5. Dunia Sekarang (1934-1935)
6. Lembaga (1938)
7. Lembaga Malaya (1934-1941)
8. Lembaga Melayu (1924, 1926-1928, 1930-1931)
9. Majallah Pengasoh (1924-26, 1952, 1954, 1956-1959, 1961, 1968-1970)
10. Majlis (1932-1955)
11. Mingguan Malaysia (1964-1965)
12. Mingguan Kota Bharu (1966-1970)
13. Jasa (1927-1931)
14. Panduan Rakyat (1949-1950, 1952)
15. Sahabat (1940)
16. Suara Malaysia (1965-1969)
17. Utusan Melayu (1907-1960)
18. Utusan Zaman (1939-1941)
19. Warta Malaya (1930-1941)
20. Warta Negara (weekly) (1949-1965)
21. Warta Melayu (1939-1940)

### English:

1. Malay Sinpo (Japanese Occupation Daily) (1943-1945)
2. Malay Mail Daily (1896-1959)
3. Malay Mail & Sunday Mail (1952-1965)
4. Malay Mail Weekly (1904-1939)
5. Malaya Tribune (FMS)(1935-1940)
6. Malaya Tribune (KL)(1945-1950)
7. The Malaya Tribune (Penang)(1947-1951)
8. The Malaya Tribune (Perak)(1935-1940, 1945-1950)
9. The Malaya Tribune (Singapore)(1947-1951)
10. Penang Gazette and Straits Chronicle (1892-1896, 1949-1962)
11. Perak Pioneer (1894-1912)
12. Sunday Mail (1946-1951)
13. Times of Malaya (1924-1926, 1928-1938, 1947-1949, 1960-1965)
14. Changi Guardian (1943)

### Tamil:

1. Tamil Nesan Daily (1937-1940, 1945-1951)
2. Tamil Nesan Daily & Sunday edition (1952-1965)
3. Tamil Nesan Sunday edition(1949-1951)
4. Tamil Nesan Weekly (1924-1928)
5. Tamil Nesan Bi-weekly (1932-1935)
6. Tamil Nesan Ti-weekly (1935-1937)

### Chinese:

1. Sin Chew Jit Poh (1968-1978)

### Journal

- 1. Federated Malay States. Forest Administration Report (1885, 1887-1888, 1911-1912, 1922-1926, 1931-1940)
2. Federated Malay States. Department of Agriculture Report (FMS Malaya)(1920-1924, 1927, 1931-1935, 1936-1940)
3. Federated Malay States. Fisheries Department Annual Report (1894, 1931-1932, 1934, 1936-1937)
4. Rubber Research Institute of Malaya. Annual Report (1928-1948)
5. Malaya. Department of Civil Aviation. Annual Report (1935-1937)
6. Malayan Railway Annual Report (1909, 1925-1926, 1928-1929, 1931-1933, 1935-1939)
7. Malacca Annual Report (1887-1888, 1890, 1891, 1893)
8. Federated Malay States Annual Report (1895-1939)

9. Federated Malay States. Audit Department (1931, 1933-1937, 1939-1940)
10. Federated Malay States. Custom & Excise Department. Annual Report (1931, 1933-1937, 1939-1940)
11. Federated Malay States. Labour Department Annual Report (1931, 1933-1940)
12. Straits Settlements Establishments (1884, 1905, 1910, 1925-1939, 1941)
13. Unfederated Malay States Annual Report (1913-1939)
14. Federated Malay States. Education Department Annual Report (1931-1938)
15. Straits settlements Blue Books (1871-1877, 1894-1895, 1897, 1900-1901, 1903-1904, 1906-1908, 1910-1911, 1913, 1914, 1916-1917, 1919-1938)
16. Federated Malay States. Despatches from Secretary of States for the Colonies (1897-1911, 1913, 1915, 1920-1940)
17. Federated Malay States. Telegrams from the Secretary of States for the Colonies (1922-1937)
18. Institute for Medical Research Annual Report (1913-1940)
19. Federated Malay States. Civil Service List (1904-1911, 1913-1914, 1916, 1918-1919, 1921-1928, 1931-1940)
20. Federated Malay States. Clerical Service List (1914, 1926, 1928-1930)
21. Federated Malay States. Departmental Annual Report (1901-1903, 1905-1908, 1910-1917, 1920-1923, 1930-1939)
22. Federated Malay states. Federal Council Proceedings (1909-1940)
23. Straits Settlements. Departmental Annual Reports (1886-1902, 1905-1907, 1910-1916, 1918-1938)
24. Straits Settlements Council Proceedings (1870, 1873, 1875-1877, 1879-1880, 1883-1898, 1900-1937)
25. Penang Chamber of Commerce Minutes Book (14.1.1873-1904)
26. F.M.S. Ordinance (no.22 of 1948-no.22 of 1951, no.68 of 1952, no.64 of 1952, no.28 1953-39, 1953, 1-3 of 1954, 53-54 of 1956, 3-4 of 1958, 21-22 of 1960, 36 of 1963, 1964-79 of 1965)
27. F.M.S. Ordinance and M.U. Ordinance (1946-21 of 1948)
28. F.M.S. Laws. (v.II 1877-1920-v.I 1935-1939)
29. Federated Malay States. Chamber of Mines Year book (1933-1936)
30. State Subsidiary Legislation (1958)

- 31. Siaran Akhbar (8.12.65-31.12.65)
- 32. Malayan Monthly Statistics External Trade  
(Dec 1955-Feb 1965)
- 33. Federal Subsidiary Legislation (1947-  
Dec 1966)

Others        -        Nil

