

EMBARGOED UNTIL MCI COS 2021 ON 2 MARCH 2021

MEDIA FACTSHEET

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL SOCIETY

1. Amid accelerated digitalisation due to COVID-19, we want to ensure that all Singaporeans can reap the benefits of digitalisation. As such, nurturing an inclusive digital society will continue to be a priority for the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) in 2021.

Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025

2. To meet the evolving needs of Singaporeans, the National Library Board (NLB) is transforming our libraries into hubs for digital learning. The Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025 (LAB25) looks at how NLB's roles and priorities will evolve from 2021 to 2025, in response to social, economic and technological changes.

3. A key component of LAB25 is working with communities, individuals and industries to innovate and explore new solutions to address the needs of citizens. Since January 2020, NLB has conducted dialogues, engagement sessions and an online public consultation to understand what Singaporeans hope to see in our libraries and archives. More than 3,000 responses were received.

4. For a start, NLB has identified the following five areas to focus on:

Area	Description
Champion lifelong learning	<p>NLB will prepare its patrons for a fast-changing world through programmes such as on career and personal development. These include the Future of Work series and the My Digital Life series, which promote public awareness of how technology affects our life.</p> <p>NLB has also revamped its library makerspaces in 2020, with a rebrand from PIXEL Labs@NLB to MakeIT at Libraries, to reflect the need to shift Singapore's DIY and innovation culture into the next gear. There are three makerspaces which comprise activities such as hands-on workshops in 3D printing and robotics, jointly organised by NLB and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).</p> <p>As of December 2020, the library makerspaces have engaged over 9,300 participants and held over 11,100 tinkering sessions where participants engaged in DIY learning using 3D printers and robotics. A MakeIT Facebook Group was also started during the circuit breaker period in April 2020, where NLB's livestreamed programmes engaged over 7,400 participants. Over 1,300 digital fabrication workshops and tinkering sessions will be curated and made available annually.</p>



Bridge the digital divide	<p>NLB will continue to partner IMDA and other government agencies to help communities, especially our seniors, to be comfortable and confident when using digital services and technology. For example, Library Learning Journeys will be conducted monthly at 25 public libraries from late February 2021, with capacity of four participants for each session. Led by digital ambassadors, these sessions teach seniors how to use the NLB mobile app and other digital services in libraries, such as connecting to Wireless@SGx, accessing eNewspapers and scanning QR codes.</p>
Document and tell Singapore stories	<p>NLB will continue to involve the community in its efforts to build the nation's contemporary collection and collect its history. An ongoing "Documenting COVID-19" collection drive organised by NLB and the National Museum of Singapore has so far received over 740 submissions of more than 3,600 photos, personal stories, videos, ephemera, webpages, blog, diaries and creative responses.</p> <p>NLB has also recorded 61 in-depth audio interviews as part of the oral history component of Documenting COVID-19. NLB aims to record at least 120 interviews from now until 2022. The public will be able to access them on the Archives Online website.</p>
Strengthen citizen engagement	<p>NLB will continue to step up efforts to ensure that libraries are safe and inclusive spaces for the community to interact with one another. Communities are encouraged to pursue their passion in learning through setting up their own interest groups and reading clubs at the various libraries, where they can interact with like-minded people from all walks of life. NLB has brought people from diverse backgrounds together through over 100 interest groups¹ and reading clubs² catering to different age groups and in different languages.</p>
Promote information literacy	<p>NLB has been actively promoting information literacy through the Source. Understand. Research. Evaluate. (S.U.R.E.) campaign, which promotes the importance of information evaluation and discernment. Over 25,000 participants have benefited from S.U.R.E. programmes in the last three years, with increased interest during COVID-19.</p> <p>In the coming years, NLB will step up its efforts on S.U.R.E. and will weave the campaign into programmes across interest</p>

¹ Interest groups include Origami Fun (for children and teenagers), Malay in Minutes (for adults), Digital Art Club (for adults), 唐城 DIY Club (for seniors), Tampines Uke Jammers (for seniors) and more.

² Reading clubs for children include 小书迷读书会 (Chinese Reading Club), Kelab Membaca Wira Cerdik (Malay Reading Club), Book Rangers Club (Tamil Reading Club). Reading clubs for adults include Open Borders (by Migrant Writers of Singapore), while reading clubs for seniors include The Golden Circle (fiction book club).

	areas, such as combining a love of reading with being wise consumers of information at NLB's Read Fest 2021.
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Revamp of Choa Chu Kang Public Library

5. In line with the Libraries of the Future (LOTF) Masterplan, NLB will continue to develop public libraries with seamless access, both physically and digitally. Since 2015, six revamped public libraries have been launched. The revamped Choa Chu Kang Public Library (CCKPL) will reopen in the second half of 2021. CCKPL will be the first LOTF library to be redesigned with sustainability as its main theme, and will feature digital services which aim to encourage the appreciation of natural landscapes and biodiversity.

6. More details on LAB25 and the revamp of CCKPL will be released later this year.

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