

International News Notes

Edited by David Roberts

National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia

Correspondent: Diantyo Nugroho

The National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia or *Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia* (ANRI) has responsibility for archival development at the national level. In order to achieve national awareness of archives in all societies in Indonesia, ANRI has various programs on its agenda.

Our programs in the last year aimed to re-introduce and promote archival matters to all societies across the country. One of the tools used by ANRI was Archives Awareness Vehicles (*Mobil Sadar Arsip*). Vehicles will be sent to every province in Indonesia. Up to the end of 2009, ANRI had given a vehicle to seven big provinces and this will now be continued in other provinces.



Handover of an Archives Awareness Vehicle

Social responsibility has been getting major attention from ANRI with a number of disasters that have occurred in recent years in Indonesia. The tsunami in Aceh was a starting point for ANRI to provide a reaction to disasters. At that time huge numbers of archives, especially land registers, were saved by ANRI. The Situ Gintung dam burst south of Jakarta in March 2009 was the most recent reaction work undertaken by ANRI.

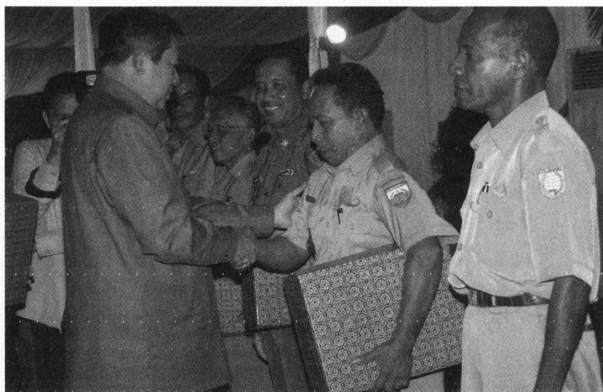


Rescuing records after the Situ Gintung dam burst

Improvements in human resources and the management of holdings have been achieved by cooperation with national and international institutions, such as other national archives and universities. In May 2009 ANRI extended a memorandum of understanding with the National Archives of the Netherlands on preservation, education, and the accessibility of holdings, which will continue until 2012. Since 2006 ANRI has also sent employees to study Historical Archival Science at Leiden University in the Netherlands and in September 2009 three employees finished their study with MA and MPhil degrees.

In August 2009 ANRI had the honour of the first visit by the President of the Republic of Indonesia since independence in 1945. The President launched the History of the Nation Journey Diorama and the Archives into the Village program. The Diorama represents the journey of the

nation, starting with the Kingdoms period, then the independence struggle, independence, the New Order period, the reformation period, and the present day. The Archives into the Village program will provide the Head of Village's administration with a basis of good governance through their archival systems and practices.



A head of village receives archival equipment from the President of the Republic

ANRI also celebrated the new archival law (Number 43, Year 2009) which was ratified on 23 October 2009, three days after the President and Vice President were sworn in following last year's presidential election. The new law replaced the previous law of 1971. It took 38 years to have a new archival law and it is very reasonable for us to celebrate the new law. The law is very important to archival activities in the present day, especially when the importance of archives is increasing with a lot of criminal and civil cases involving the defendant using archives.

The last matter to report has been the retirement of our Head of National Archives, Djoko Utomo, on 1 January 2010. At the time of writing, the acting Head of National Archives is Muhammad Asichin. Since the start of 2010, ANRI has signed a cooperation agreement with the Attorney General, has organised training in archives description in cooperation with Leiden University, and has received UNESCO certificates relating to Indonesian cultural heritage from the Minister of Culture and Tourism. This shows how ANRI is creating a better archival environment.

National Archives of Singapore Workshop on preservation of recorded heritage for ASEAN countries, Singapore, 8–19 March 2010

Correspondent: Toi Chi Kwok

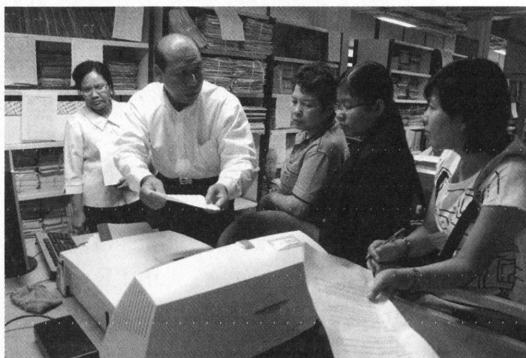
A firm believer and practitioner in continuous learning, the National Archives of Singapore (NAS) not only holds regular training for its staff and other civil service officers who manage corporate records and archives, but also seeks to promote the sharing of knowledge within the region and with the rest of the world.

In March this year, seventeen archivists and two librarians from nine ASEAN countries were in Singapore for a two-week Workshop on Preservation of Recorded Heritage, jointly conducted by NAS, the State Archives Administration of China (SAAC) and Renmin University of China. Jointly sponsored by Singapore's foreign affairs ministry and China's commerce ministry, under the Singapore–China Third Country Training Programme, the workshop's main objective was to provide participants with an overview of the whole spectrum of archives management work. The comprehensive range of topics covered included records management, preservation imaging, conservation principles and techniques, audiovisual archives management, oral history methodology, archives repository management, disaster recovery and preparedness, and archives dissemination and deployment.



Participants trying their hand at cleaning excess fibre from documents after leafcasting process at NAS's Archives Conservation Lab

Combining theory and practice, the workshop was planned to include an interesting mix of lectures, hands-on sessions and learning journeys, with visits to NAS's World War II galleries and purpose-built repository, the Asian Civilisations Museum, and the Heritage Conservation Centre, as well as Singapore's Supreme Court (Technology Courtrooms).



NAS staff demonstrating to participants the scanning of documents in poor condition using a slow-speed document scanner at NAS's Image Preservation Lab

The workshop not only provided an excellent opportunity for archivists from the region to interact and network, but it also promoted the sharing and exchange of knowledge and ideas among participants and trainers. Combining the richness and diversity of experience of ten ASEAN countries and China, it is hoped that a multiplier effect of sharing will cascade down to the various archives within the region, as participants bring home what they have learnt to be shared with their colleagues. The expansion in the collective body of knowledge will help in building capability among archival institutions in the region.

NAS received many accolades as well as constructive feedback from participants. As NAS is committed to continuously improve on future workshops it plans to conduct, it has taken all feedback seriously. One area which NAS will implement in the future, based on the feedback received, is to hold two types of training courses: a more general introductory course to cater to new or entry-level staff, with the objective of exposing them to a wide range of archives management

practices and processes; and an advanced course for experienced archivists, with more time devoted to in-depth discussion, hands-on sessions and the latest developments (including techniques used) in the archival world.

NAS hopes to see more collaboration between the region and other countries, such as its collaboration with China for the workshop, to provide cross-regional training and further build upon the knowledge and skills of archivists in the region and beyond. As Mr Pitt Kuan Wah, Director of NAS put it, 'For NAS, this workshop reflects our continual commitment in sharing what we have learnt in our journey of managing and preserving archives. More importantly, when participants from various countries and regions come together to share, not only do we build upon and enrich our collective body of knowledge, we move towards becoming a stronger region and (archival) world community as a whole'.

Archives New Zealand

Correspondent: Cathy Holmes

Digital continuity conference

Archives New Zealand has sponsored New Zealand's first conference addressing the challenges facing digital continuity and information management in the public sector.

The *Future Perfect: Digital Continuity Conference 2010* was held in Wellington on 3–5 May 2010. The conference's keynote speakers were:

- Dr Seamus Ross, of the University of Toronto, who led the first workshop introducing digital continuity, and focusing on the core concepts and issues of digital preservation;
- Dr Andi Rauber, of the Vienna University of Technology, who ran a master class on digital preservation; and
- Steve Bailey, Senior Advisor at JISC infoNet in the UK, who talked about technology trends via an online stream.

For more information and details about the conference program go to <<http://bit.ly/6a59YE>>.

Transfer of historic land records from LINZ to Archives New Zealand

Some of New Zealand's oldest land records have been transferred from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) Wellington office to Archives New Zealand's national office in Wellington for future storage and preservation.

These documents, more than 1,500 in total, include Crown grants and the original deeds records for the Wellington and Hawke's Bay land districts. Many of these are handwritten and have drawings of land blocks, and date back to when people first settled in Wellington.

Language revitalisation project

Archives New Zealand and indigenous Maori from the Taranaki province have completed a 12-month project with over 250,000 files relevant to the Maori language (*te reo*) researched, 50,000 files accessed, and 1,000 digital images taken.

The department and Te Reo o Taranaki Charitable Trust began working together on the project in January 2009. The project contributes to the Taranaki Reo Strategy that provides access to important records, written in *te reo Taranaki* from 1860 to 1900. The records are held in Archives New Zealand's Wellington office.

Shipping list digitisation project

After nearly fifteen months and with 280,277 pages of digitised images, FamilySearch volunteers Bill and Glenys Chadderton have completed the Wellington-based Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) - Archives New Zealand Passenger List Digitisation Project.

The shipping lists are held by Archives New Zealand. They contain some ten million names of people who travelled to New Zealand by ship from the 1800s until the mid-1970s and are an important resource for those researching their family history. Currently the records are being processed to make them available through the FamilySearch website, at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#r=5;p=allCollections>.

New online search tool makes access to archives easier

Archives New Zealand is trialling the use of a new online search tool developed to help improve our services to researchers.

The trial uses data from Archway, Archives New Zealand's system for documenting government records in the context of their creation and use, and also showcases our digitisation work with the New Zealand Defence Force records, along with images from the National Publicity Studios and War Art collection. Read more about the trial and how to use it online, at <http://searchpilot.archives.govt.nz/>.

Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand

Correspondent: David Reeves

The National Library of New Zealand has commenced a major upgrade of the essential infrastructure and storage in its main Wellington building. Ahead of this work the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library have been carefully packed and relocated, and during the next two years we will be providing public research services from two temporary locations.

National Library general collections and copies of some Alexander Turnbull Library materials are available from our new reading room at 77 Thorndon Quay, Wellington. We are also sharing reading room facilities with Archives New Zealand at 10 Mulgrave Street in order to provide access to a range of unique materials including the majority of the manuscript collections, rare books and a selection of pictorial and published collection items.

A number of collections have had to be closed during the building redevelopment and researchers should consult the library's website at <http://www.natlib.govt.nz> for details of what materials are available from where. We expect full collection access to resume in the National Library Building in early 2012. In the meantime our curatorial staff are still available to assist with research enquiries and discuss donations to the library collections. A number of staff will also be working on a project to digitise up to 500,000 photographic images, vastly increasing the online access to these collections.

Hocken Collections – Uare Taoka O Hakena, Archives and Manuscripts Section, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Correspondent: Anna Blackman

Centenary of the opening of the Hocken Library 31 March 2010

This year we celebrated the centenary of the opening of the Hocken Collections in 1910.



The Hocken Library in 1910

Activities included a lecture on the history of the Hocken Collections from former Hocken Librarian Stuart Strachan, celebratory morning and afternoon teas on 31 March for our researchers and staff, and a display on the history of the Hocken in our foyer. A larger exhibition will focus on Dunedin in 1910 and 2010 later in the year.



The Hocken Library today

Archives access enhancement project – progress

Funding for this project from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board has ended, and we are taking stock of what has been achieved and thinking about how we can further improve access. Since the project started in 2002 we have created and improved hundreds of finding aids, added thousands of descriptive records to the online database, Hakena, and to our in-house photographs database, and packaged our way through thousands of metres of records during the course of the project. We have definitely achieved the project goal of improving the level of access researchers enjoy but there is still more to do. Much of our very large collection of local business records would benefit from further work, as would the archives of the university itself. There is also still a proportion of the collections that have no finding aids at all.

Hakena replacement or redevelopment

We have completed further work on obtaining a replacement or redevelopment. Hakena is supplied by Civica and is substantially the same system as Tapuhi, used by the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. We have developed the high-level requirements and have been through a request for information process. We are currently seeking final approval from the university to proceed to a request for proposal process and final selection of a suitable product.

Twenty-first-century communications

We have recently set up a blog, at <http://thehockenblog.blogspot.com/> and a Facebook page to help us keep our friends and researchers up to date with activities and additions to the collections. The Facebook page in particular has taken off, with over a hundred 'fans' joining in less than a week.

The community archive

We are now regularly contributing collection (or 'group') level descriptions to the Community Archive (the relaunched version of the old National Register of Archives and Manuscripts) so as to reach a wider range of researchers. The new webpage has made it easier for us to contribute the descriptions and is a much more attractive and user-friendly product.

Yap State Archives

Correspondent: Tess Perez

Yap State Archives ensures that the needs of the government and the people of Yap State for public records are met through the effective management of all closed, current and future state records.

Recordkeeping supports all government activities and makes it possible for the people to interpret the past. Creation and maintenance of records of government actions and decisions is vital to each public organisation's efficiency, stability and usefulness.

The relationship between government and the people is strengthened by the availability of a reliable record through which actions can be examined and analysed. Documenting government programs and policies, as well as its commitments and obligations, will help the people's rights and entitlements.

In the past two years, the Yap State Office of Archives and Records Management has undergone staff changes. Two new archives interns were hired in April 2008, three months before the former State Archivist left. The current archivist came on board in September 2008 and worked on the continuance of the projects started for the office.

A grant for the conversion of the audio tapes of the First Yap State Constitutional Convention in 1982 was finalised and a copy was forwarded to the British Library in June 2008. The project consisted of two parts: digitisation of all the audio recordings by Yap State Radio Station V6AI, and the translation and transcription of the tapes by the Yap State Office of Archives and Records Management.

Currently, the major problem being faced by the office is a lack of storage space, although its current location is also beside the dock and its gas refilling station. In 2007, a United States Department of Agriculture grant of \$100,000 was approved for the construction of an archives repository, but the project has not taken off due to a lack of additional funding. We are currently either trying to source additional funds or reassess the project and do some revisions to fit the current available funding.

As part of our outreach program, the Yap State Government website offers an overview of the Yap State Archives' duties and functions. We hope to get more attention from people if they are made aware of what we can do for them.