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Singapore Memory

A National Collaborative and Digital Project to Collect, Preserve and Access the Singapore Story

Raison d'Etre: A Collective Memory

The National Library (NL) of Singapore plays a vital role in ensuring that Singapore's collective memory in the form of its intellectual and cultural output is kept and preserved in perpetuity. It plays an important role as the custodian of the nation's memory by enabling the sharing of information and knowledge, by supporting learning and intellectual activities and by connecting communities to ideas and knowledge and to each other in pursuit of new knowledge.

Further, the wealth of materials on Singapore that reside in research and academic institutions, public agencies and people organisations collectively tell the evolving story of Singapore from its pre-founding days through its colonial period and independence, to current and ever growing developments in all sectors of Singapore life including society, government and economy.

With Singapore's maturity as a nation-state and the increasing emphasis placed by the government on creating a sense of identity and nationhood among Singaporeans, Permanent Residents and to some extent, foreigners working, studying or living in Singapore, there is a critical need and urgency in ensuring that the Singapore story is collected and discovered.

Taking a National Perspective with the Singapore Memory Project

The **Singapore Memory Project** is a sustainable long-term national initiative that will put in place a system to enable our cultural and intellectual memory to be collected, organized, preserved, and promoted for research and discovery. It will build a national digital collection of materials about Singapore and encompass the entire value chain of collecting, preserving, organising, disseminating, sharing and showcasing knowledge for research and discovery. Central to the project is a nationwide digitisation and digital preservation programme.

Through the Singapore Memory, the National Library will play a national leadership role in collecting, preserving and building this story through a definitive and holistic body of knowledge on Singapore from the materials residing not only at the National Library through its collections but also those that reside with the public, people and private sector agencies, and private collectors.

Further the project bears the objective of borderless digital proliferation – globally through NLB's national library partners, through the channels of the private, public and people sector agencies who contribute to the project and in the social media field where web communities, web media and other shared platforms can be engaged to collaborate, build and further communicate the content.

A Critical Collaborative Enabler: The Singapore Memory Network

The key engine is the establishment of a people-public-private platform – **the Singapore Memory Network** - that will provide direction, support and community for the collection of content for the project, the development of research on the content and the proliferation of the content.

The members of this collaboration will come from academic, research and library institutions, private agencies with collections on Singapore, government agencies with past and evolving content on Singapore's national development, people organisations such as clan associations, town councils and private donors, and notable Singaporeans who will be able to contribute advice, direction and visibility.

Whole of Government and Whole of Nation Collaborative Approach

The Singapore Memory Project is a national project that is unprecedented in its scale including a Whole-Of-Government approach to pulling together all related government agencies currently attempting their own documenting efforts, of creating a National Education programme that is both directed and leverages off the proliferative power of the Web, and finally of pooling the nation's resources in digital content collection and development to create a definitive and exhaustive story of the nation.

It would set the stage for Singapore to be a trailblazer in harnessing its strengths in being a technologically-advanced country with a tech-savvy populace. It will demonstrate that with the hardware comes an appreciation and commitment to safeguarding the software and the strands of information that have and will continue to tell the Singapore Story.

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