

IMPROVING LIVES, CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH LIBRARIES: THE SINGAPORE EXPERIENCE

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National Library Board
Singapore

ABOUT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD (NLB)

Our network of 27 public libraries is conveniently located across Singapore to ensure reading is made accessible to everyone. Besides promoting reading and learning, the National Library Board also offers reference services and preserves our nation's cultural and literary heritage under the National Library. We also welcome the public to tap on the rich resources in the National Archives of Singapore, comprising letters, government records, maps, photographs, oral history interviews and audio-visual recordings, with some documents dating as far back as the 1800s.



NLB's Vision
Readers for Life,
Learning Communities,
Knowledgeable Nation

-  NATIONAL LIBRARY
-  27 PUBLIC LIBRARIES
-  NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE
-  FORMER FORD FACTORY

ON READING: GIVING THE LESS-PRIVILEGED A LEG UP



2024 is NLB's 20th year running this nationwide reading programme aimed at cultivating the love of reading among children from less privileged families.

A strong partnership with multiple national authorities for education, community, family & social development

- Set up clubs in priority areas (e.g. near rental public housing)
- Recruit volunteers (including students) to conduct reading sessions

More than 2,600 children and 3,000 student volunteers reached annually.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A kidsREAD SESSION?

Tuning In
5 mins



Storytelling
15 mins



Independent reading
15 mins



Activities
25 mins



PARTNERING WITH SCHOOLS FOR INFO LITERACY

Launched in 2013, NLB's **S.U.R.E.** (Source, Understand, Research, Evaluate) programme promotes Information Literacy to help Singaporeans be discerning digital citizens.

A multi-faceted partnership with the Education Ministry to

1. **embed** NLB's S.U.R.E. content in schools' Social Studies Curriculum and Students Learning Portal;

2. **jointly run** school competitions for secondary students to nurture critical thinking and research skills; and

3. **conduct training** for teachers and students.

LATEST: New learning resources and tiered approaches to suit different learning styles.



Downloadable guides

Our existing content are all hosted on the SURE website as free resources for all school levels (primary, secondary, JCs and IHLS)



Educational animations



Infographics

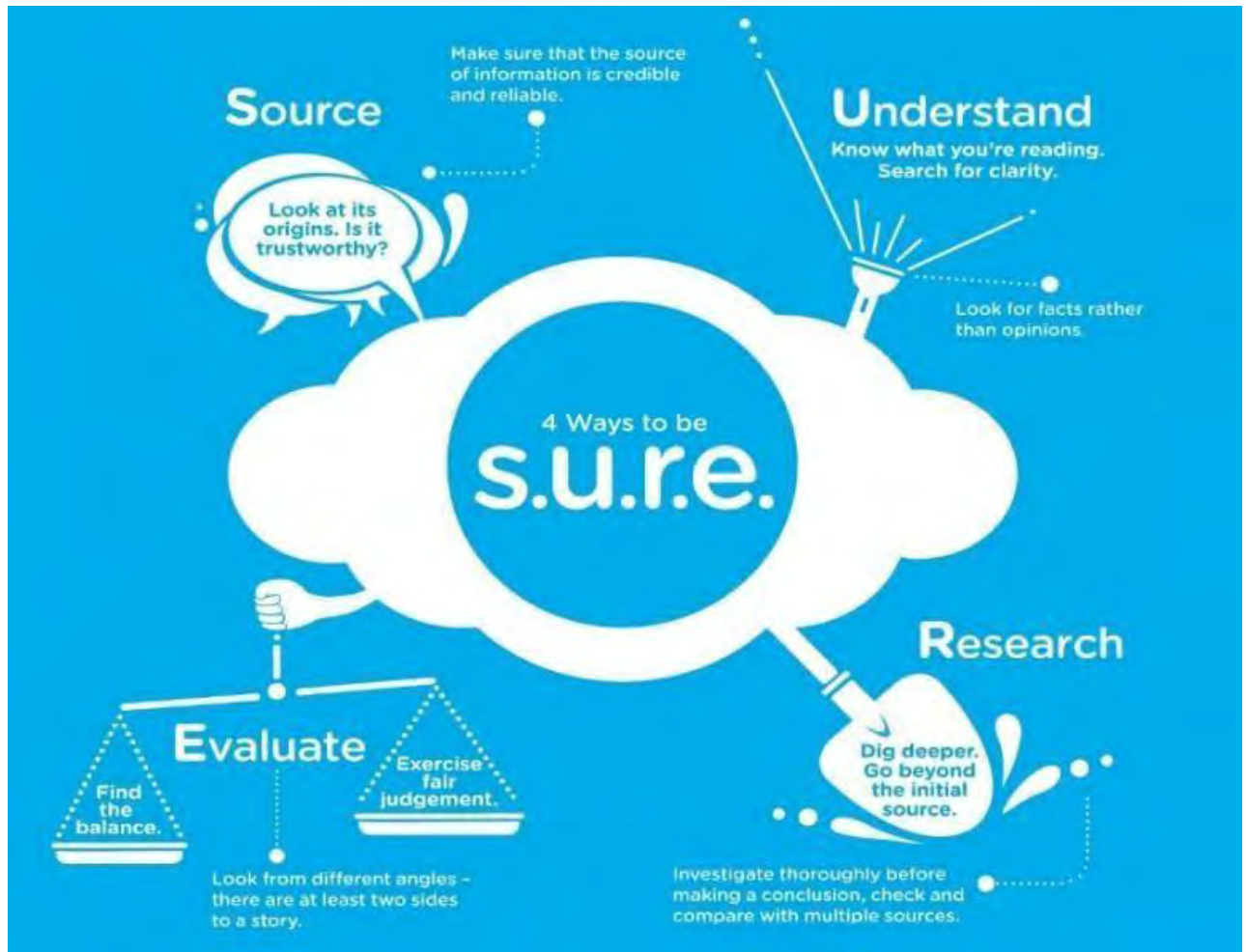
Historical Scene Investigation Challenge
• Student teams investigate historical mysteries related to Singapore
• Supported by MOE's CPDD Humanities History Unit



Champion team from Methodist Girls' School for HSI Challenge 2021

<https://youtu.be/vEOYx-70pkU>

Historical Scene Investigation Challenge



AWARD-WINNING GREEN LIBRARIES: THE NATIONAL LIBRARY (2005) + CHOA CHU KANG PUBLIC LIBRARY (2021)

<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>and more</p>
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- The National Library was designed as one of Singapore’s earliest green buildings – winning Singapore’s highest green mark platinum award (2005) and the top ASEAN Energy Efficiency Award (2007). It has 14 gardens to keep the building cool and reduce air-conditioning needs, among other energy-saving features.
- Choa Chu Kang Public Library is the winner of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Green Library Award 2022 – built with sustainable interiors, featuring eco-themed programmes & AR wildlife learning trails.



WHAT IS LAB25?

LAB25 is NLB's invitation to partners and the community to collaborate on this journey of innovation and experimentation to reimagine libraries and archives. The goal is to be an even stronger companion to patrons as the society navigates an evolving social, cultural and economic landscape. Through four distinct roles, NLB seeks to work with the community to co-create products and services for our next generation of libraries and archives.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



and more

LEARNING MARKETPLACE

To transform NLB into a national platform of lifelong learning with like-minded partners

SINGAPORE STORYTELLERS

To inspire discovery and creation of Singapore stories and instil a deeper appreciation of our collective experience

INFORMED CITIZENRY

To nurture thoughtful people who reflect deeply on what they come across every day

EQUALISER

To bridge gaps, include more and empower all in this digital age

NURTURING AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

NLB wants to preserve a common safe space for differing views & varied perspectives. This doesn't naturally occur & is constantly being threatened.



WHAT IS READ TO BE SURE?

Read to be SURE (RTBS) is part of NLB's Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025 (LAB25), a five-year journey of our next phase of transformation. RTBS aims to educate and inform the public on trending topics through a combination of curated content and accompanying programmes. By exploring multiple perspectives on these topics, readers and participants will benefit from a balanced and credible knowledge base.



The programme aims to amplify and educate the Singapore response to the world issues of our time.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AMONG SENIORS



develops and regulates infocomm and media sectors and works with partners to encourage all segments of society to adopt and use infocomm in a more sophisticated way.

1. Launched in 2020 by IMDA, the **Seniors Go Digital (SGD) movement** comprises specially designed programmes to help seniors pick up digital skills.

2. Run by Digital Ambassadors, **SG Digital Offices (SDOs)** are located at public libraries and provide **1-on-1 personalised guidance** to seniors on. The focus is on 3 tiers of digital skills:

- **Basic communication**
- **Digital Government Services**
- **E-payment**

3. **Learning Journeys** (hands-on practice) are also conducted monthly for seniors to learn about:

- **Basic library digital services** e.g. eNewspapers, Wireless@SG, and our mobile app.
- **E-payment** to transact digitally on their mobile devices

This complements the extensive suite of digital literacy programmes at public libraries supporting children, teens, adults and seniors with varied competencies and interests.



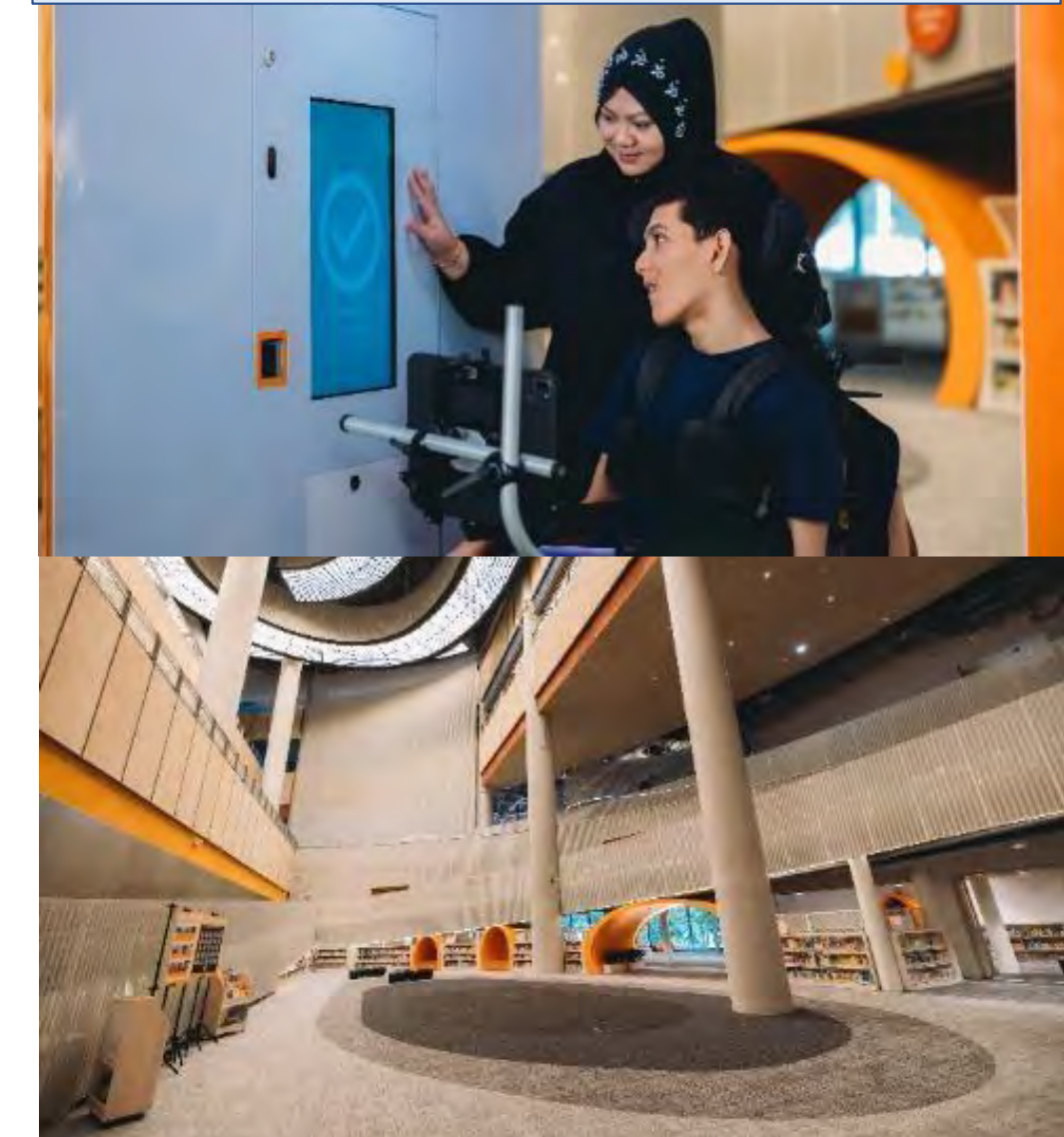
More than 42,000 seniors have benefitted from these initiatives at the libraries.



ON OUR EQUALISER ROLE

A FULLY-INCLUSIVE LIBRARY - PUNGGOL REGIONAL LIBRARY

- Opened its doors in 2023, equipped with **assistive technology devices, wheelchair-accessible book borrowing stations, Calm Pods and an Accessible Collection** with books for the disability community and their caregivers.
- These features were developed in consultation with more than 500 persons with disabilities and caregivers since 2018 and its Advisory Committee which was set up in 2019.
- The Accessible Membership also provides an expanded scope of library services for persons with disabilities.
- The library also features one of the **Smithsonian's Spark!Lab tinkering spaces** that celebrates different modalities of learning for kids aged 7-12 years. We also enable children to discover stories & cultures very different from Singapore's through the **World & Us collection**, donated by various country partners.



OTHER INITIATIVES TO NARROW THE GAPS & BRING A GREENER TOMORROW...



Launch

UFSE
FREELANCER
FAIR
2023

SLAYING THE GIG ECONOMY!

27 JULY 2023 • NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

**Experience
DIT**

ALL ABOUT AI

NLB
National Library Board
Singapore

aws

DIGITAL FOR LIFE
PLAY IT FORWARD

CATALYST

**TRUST IN AN
AI-SUPERCHARGED
WORLD**

Catalyst is a National Library initiative to promote community engagement and co-solutioning on critical national issues.

2022 VIRTUAL SARBICA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

**PRESERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY:
TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN?** 15-17 NOVEMBER 2022

Visit <https://sarbicasymposium2022.nas.gov.sg/> for more

Registration is OPEN!

KEYNOTES

16 November 2022

At the Heart of Sustainability
by Karen Chan
Executive Director
Asian Film Archive

17 November 2022

**Where does the Balance Lie
and Are We There Yet?**
Archival Values Versus Saving
the Environment
by Dr Valerie Johnson
Director of Research and Collections
The National Archives, United Kingdom

WORKSHOP
15 November 2022
Enacting Environmentally Sustainable Digital Preservation

Digital Preservation Coalition

**2023
GREEN PLAN**

The Singapore Green Plan 2030 is a national sustainability movement, positioning us to achieve our target of net zero emissions by 2050. It is a living plan which continues to evolve. Here are the key updates and initiatives announced by Green Plan Ministries in Committee of Supply 2023.

[GreenPlan.gov.sg](https://greenplan.gov.sg)

**Driving a Greener
Digital Future**

SINGAPORE'S GREEN DATA CENTRE ECOSYSTEM

Tech continues to both Excite & Disrupt Workers & Work

Collaborating with businesses, fellow govt agencies & non-profits to curate content & programmes which generate new value to workers displaced by tech + new workstreams afforded by tech

Sustainable Preservation, Sustainable Data Services

How many copies do we really need to conserve? Are we sourcing from **renewable energy & responsible data service** providers?

Thank you

