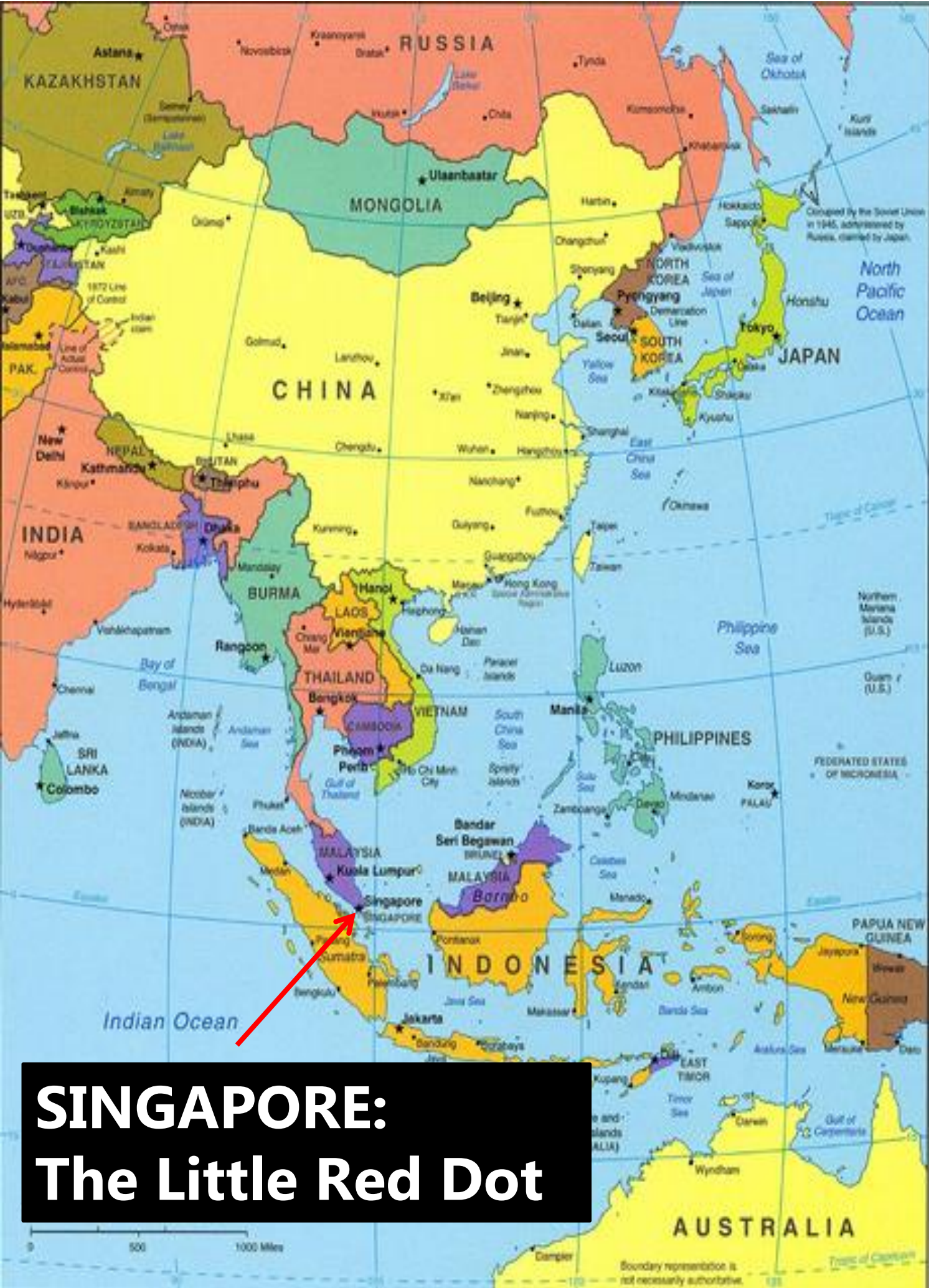


THE CITIZEN ARCHIVIST PROJECT JOURNEY IN SINGAPORE

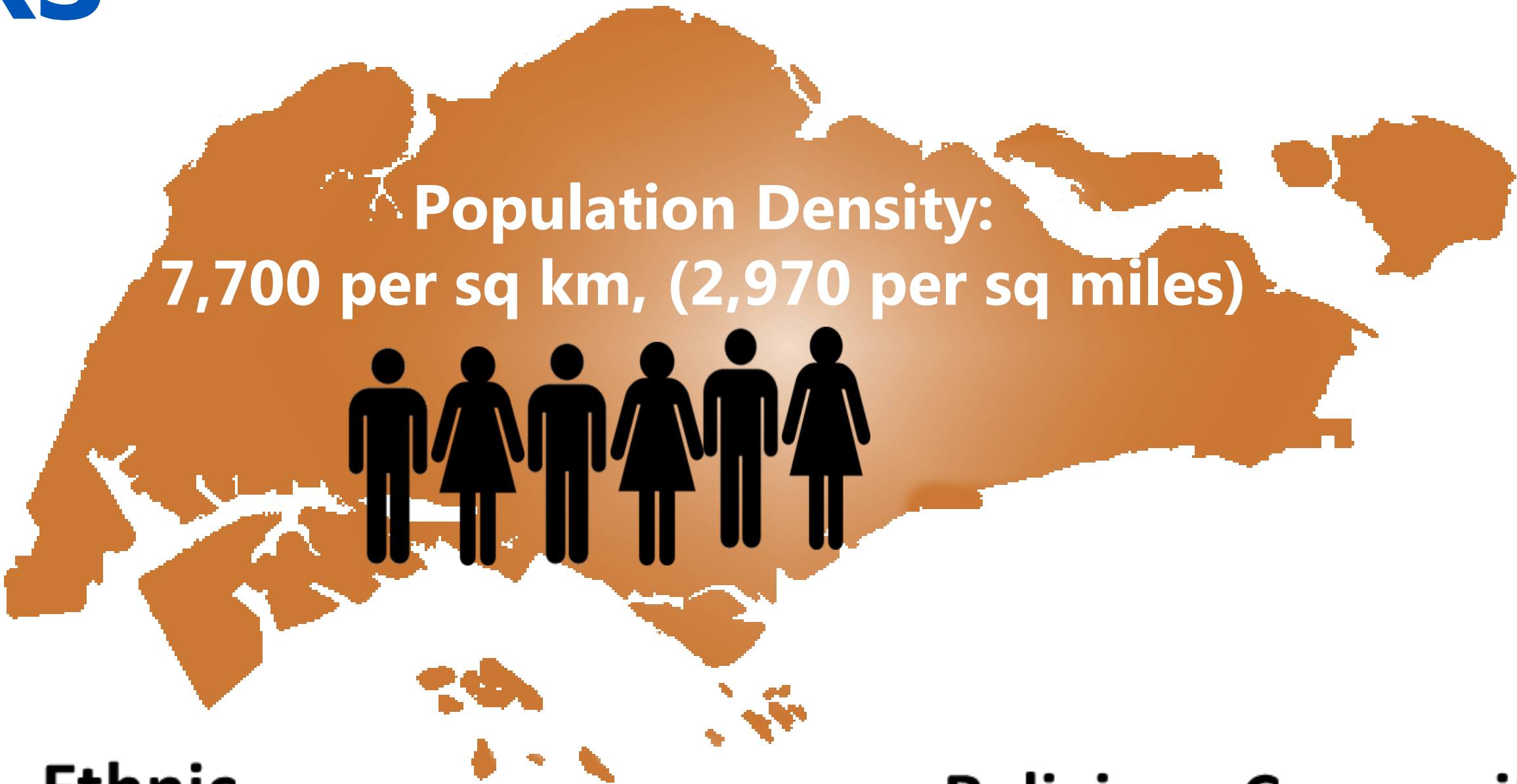
Abigail Huang, Archivist
Christabel Khoo, Assistant Archivist
National Archives of Singapore
14 Nov 2018



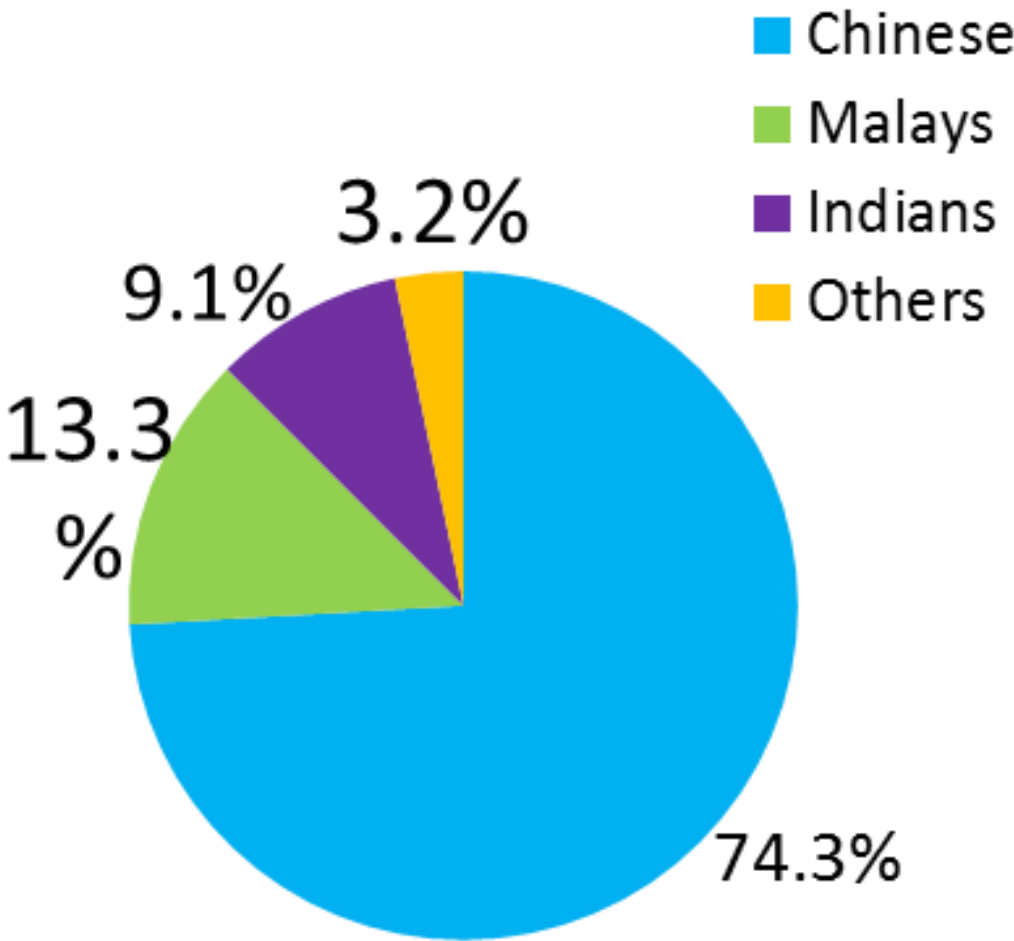
SINGAPORE IN NUMBERS



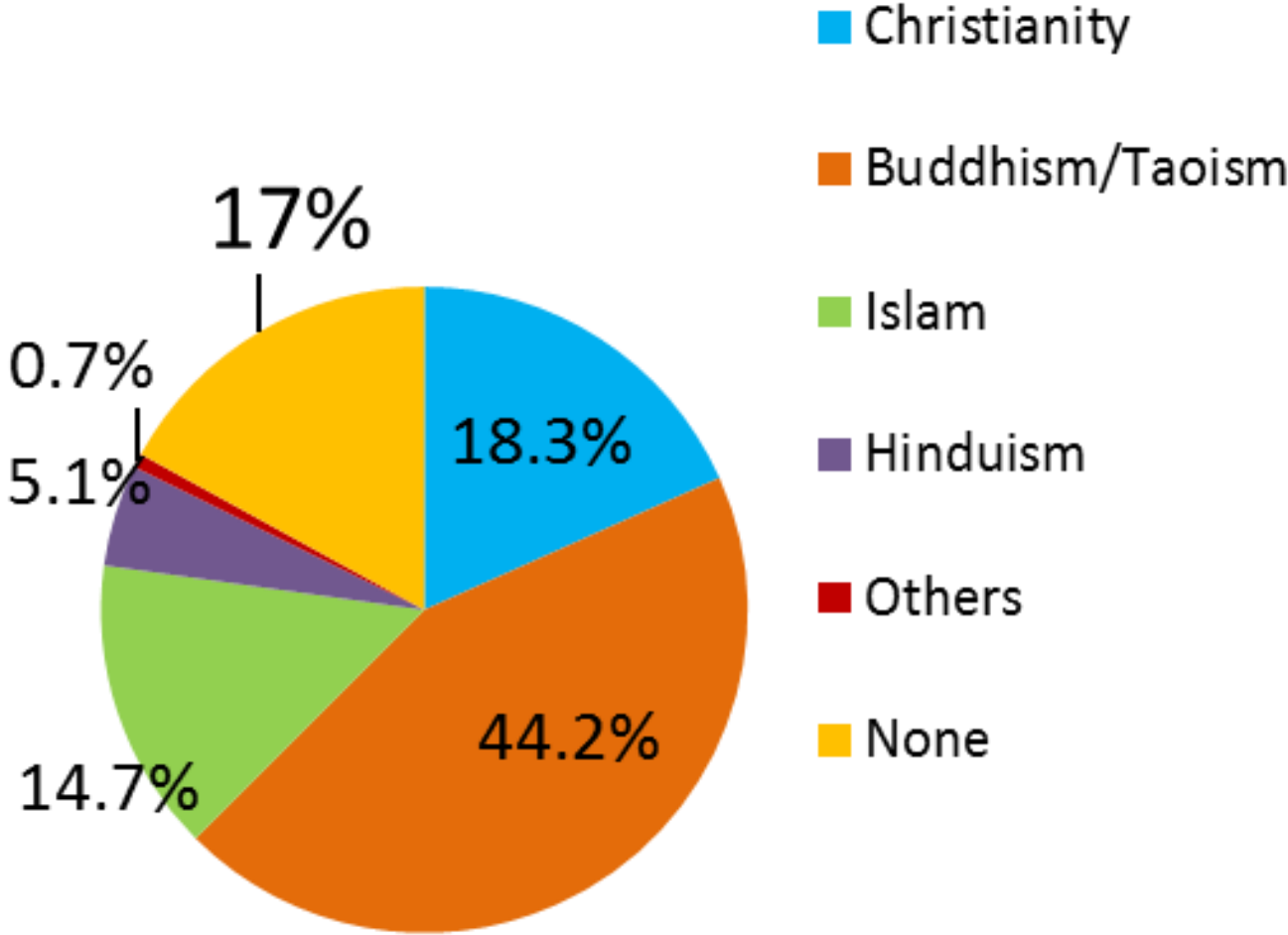
Size: 719.1 Sq Km or 277 Sq Miles



**Ethnic
Composition**



Religious Composition



NLB's VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Readers for Life
Learning Communities
Knowledgeable Nation

Mission

We make **knowledge** come alive,
spark **imagination**
and create **possibilities**



NLB'S KEY DOMAINS



Public Libraries

- Network of 26 Public Libraries in the heart of housing estates
- Reading Programmes and Initiatives
- Programmes and Exhibitions targeted at Singapore communities



National Library

- Preserves Singapore's Print and Literary Heritage, and Intellectual memory
- Legal Deposit (including electronic)
- Supports reference and research on Singapore and Southeast Asia
- Located in the CBD and arts & heritage district

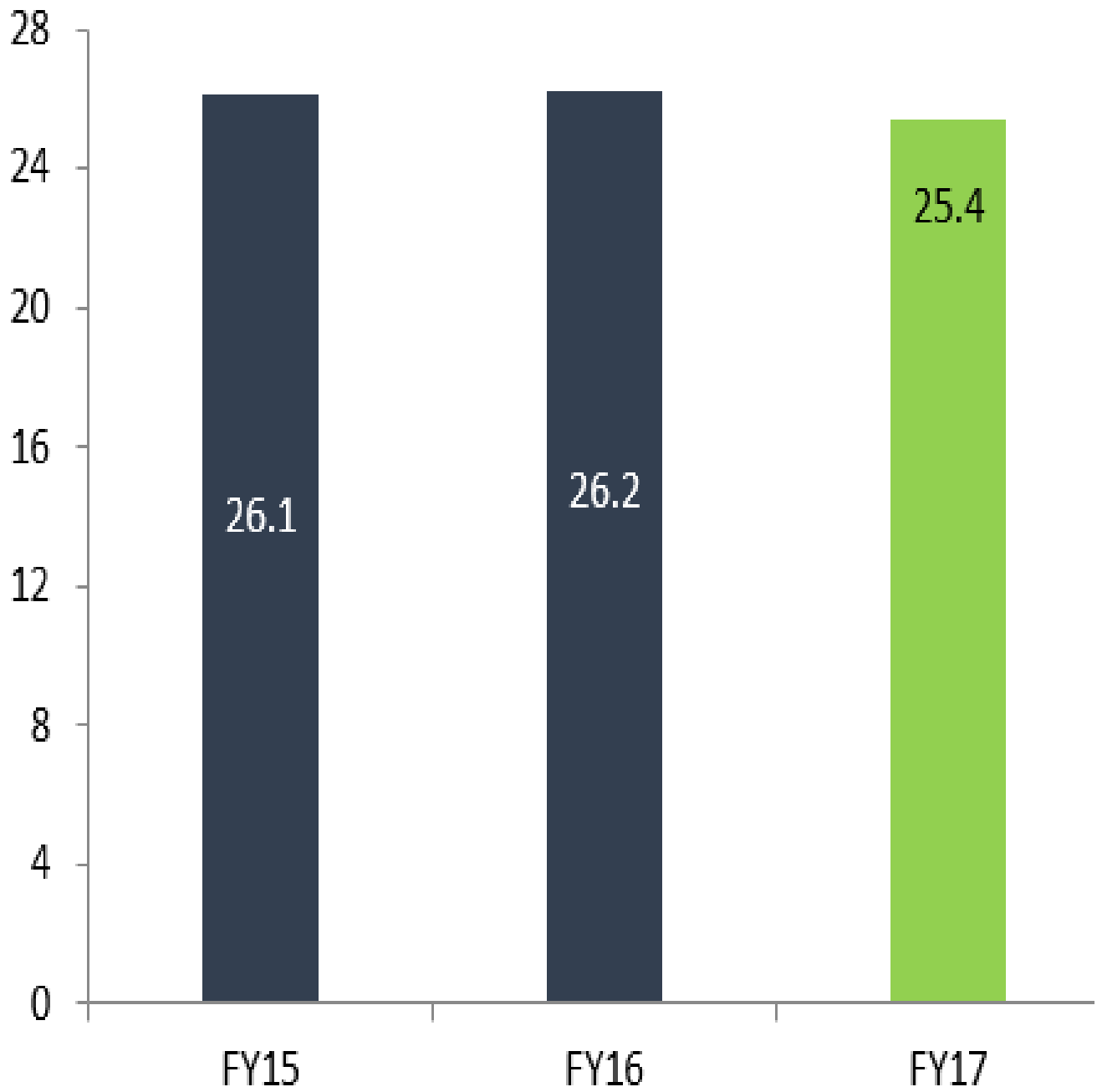


National Archives

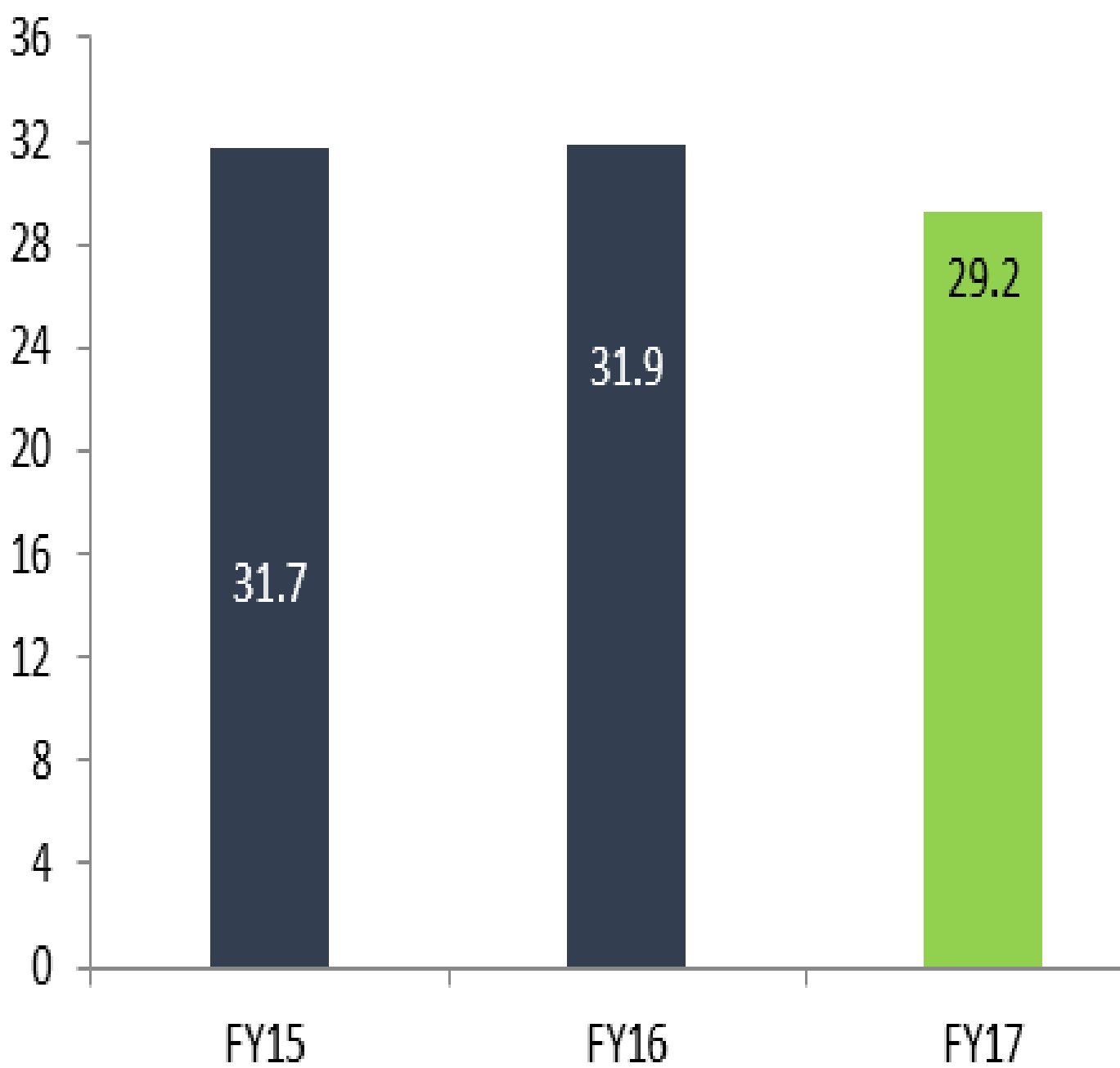
- Custodian of Singapore's Collective Memory
- Responsible for Collection, Preservation and Management of Singapore's Public and Private Archival Records
- Promotes Public Interest in and Access to our Nation's History and Heritage

NLB IN NUMBERS

No. of Physical Visits (in millions)



No. of Physical Loans (in millions)



No. of e-Retrievals (in millions)



THE CITIZEN ARCHIVIST PROJECT

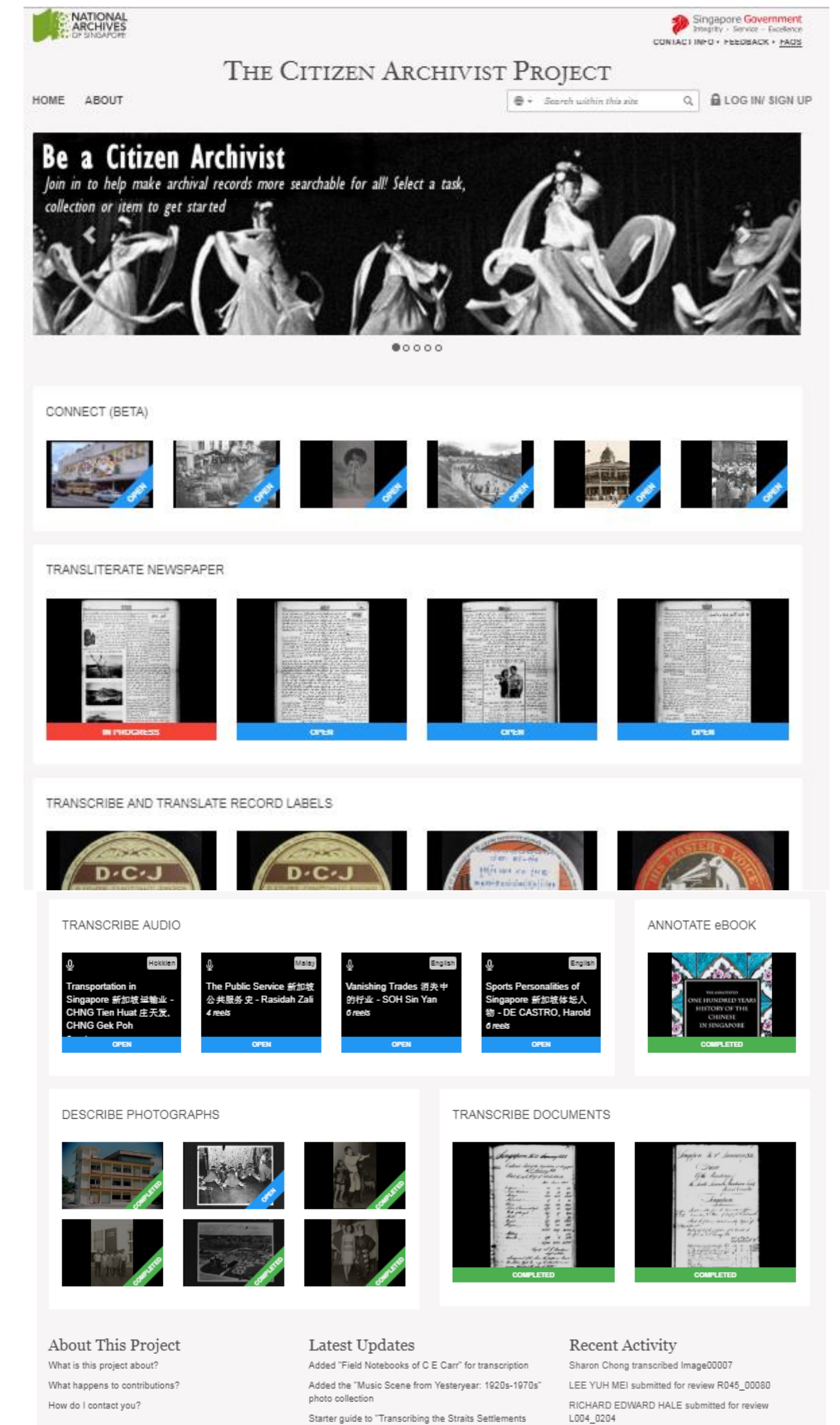
Harnessing of Collective Memory

“But it is joining forces with experts outside the profession which will truly bring archives out of the box and into the world. Even unexpected partners and improbable leverages can lead to a breakthrough. Archival projects around the world are already finding this out. For instance, the Singapore’s Citizen Archivist Project is calling for everybody’s help to make records of their National Archives more discoverable. When shared, the intensive burden of transcribing documents and audio recordings is lighter and, when harnessed, collective memory gathers metadata of undescribed photos faster.”

**– John Hocking, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal, at his ICA 2016 Congress keynote speech
“Out of the Box, Into the World”**

Objectives

1. Make records more accessible and searchable with description and transcription
2. Tap on the collective knowledge of the wider community
3. Promote engagement with historical records



Statistics (till 30 Sep 2018)

- Total number of items contributed to: **29,621**
- **~760** items/month over 39 months
- Transcription is the most popular task (~**26** documents/day)

Overall	Page Views	151,954
	Unique Users	485
Describing Photographs	Completed Photographs	1,865
	Unique Describers	145
Transcribing Documents	Completed Pages	28,075
	Unique Transcribers	424

Our Development Journey

How the Project was Started

- How things were
 - NAS has a lot of photographs that have little or no description
 - Hard to read and find information in handwritten records
- However
 - Would take millions of hours to describe and transcribe them
 - NAS may not have expertise in some areas

Can members of the public help?

We Studied Other Crowdsourcing Examples

1. Transcription of documents
 - Smithsonian Institution
 - National Archives of Australia
 - University of Iowa
2. Photo tagging
 - Library of Congress and others on Flickr Commons
 - British Library
3. Geolocation tagging
 - New York Public Library
 - HistoryPin

What is in our Image Collection?

- Large majority from government agencies such as Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts
- NAS has more than 4.7 million images
 - Of which 1.5 million are digitised, grouped into
 - 967,000 on Archives Online
 - 723,000 undergoing processing

Many Images had Minimal or No Description



Source:
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE ARTS
(MITA)
Background Information:
SHIP SURVEY
Date(s):
28/02/1950



Source: PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

Source:
MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND THE
ARTS (MITA)
Background Information:
PWD - ROADS
Date(s):
18/08/1965

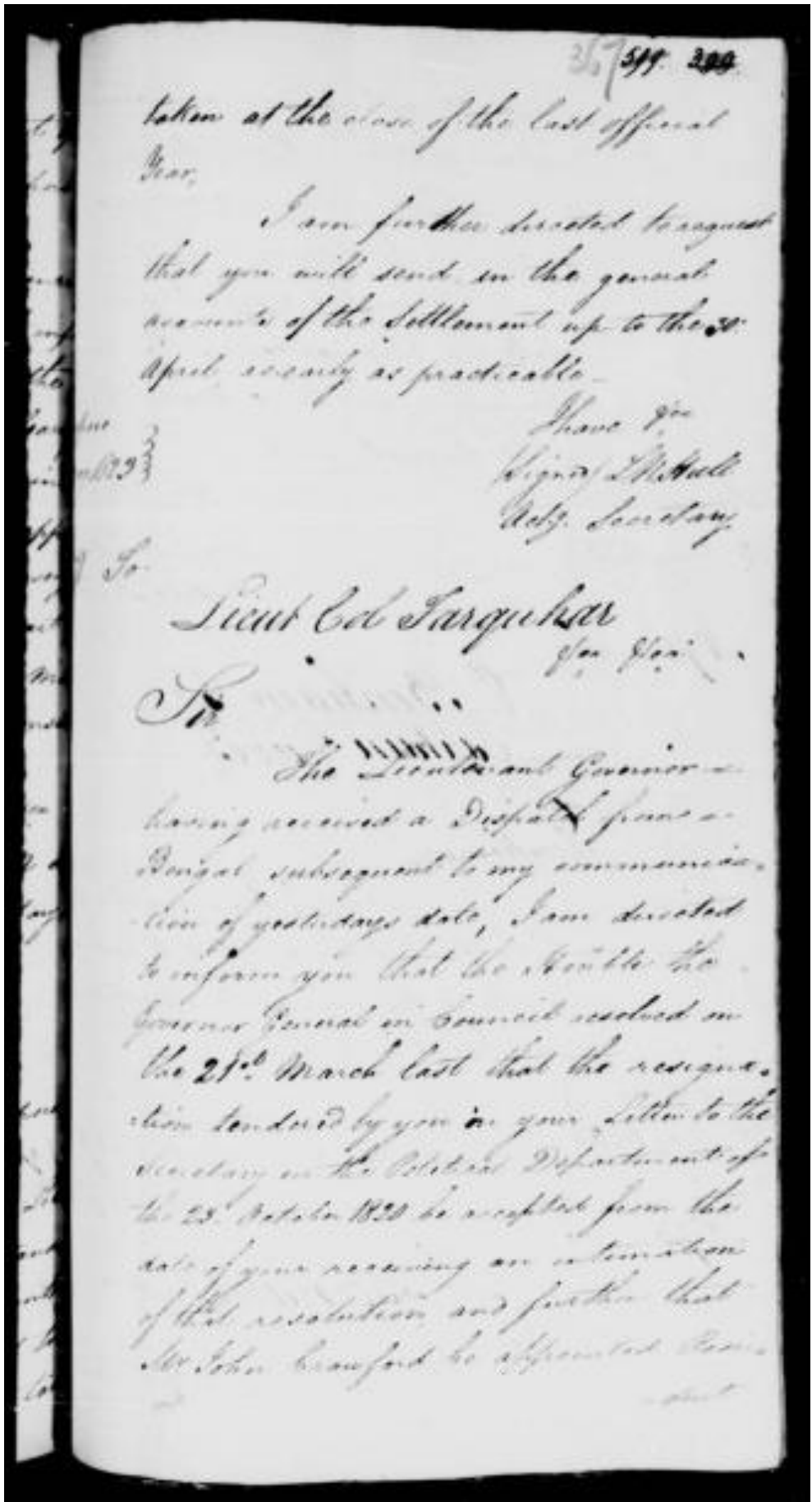
How Did We Select and Organise Images?

1. From sources we have permissions for
2. Photos taken in the context of community events or that provide information on what life was like
3. Similar images will be included
 - Context can be important for clues
 - Different users can contribute different perspectives
4. Some diversity: from more than one era

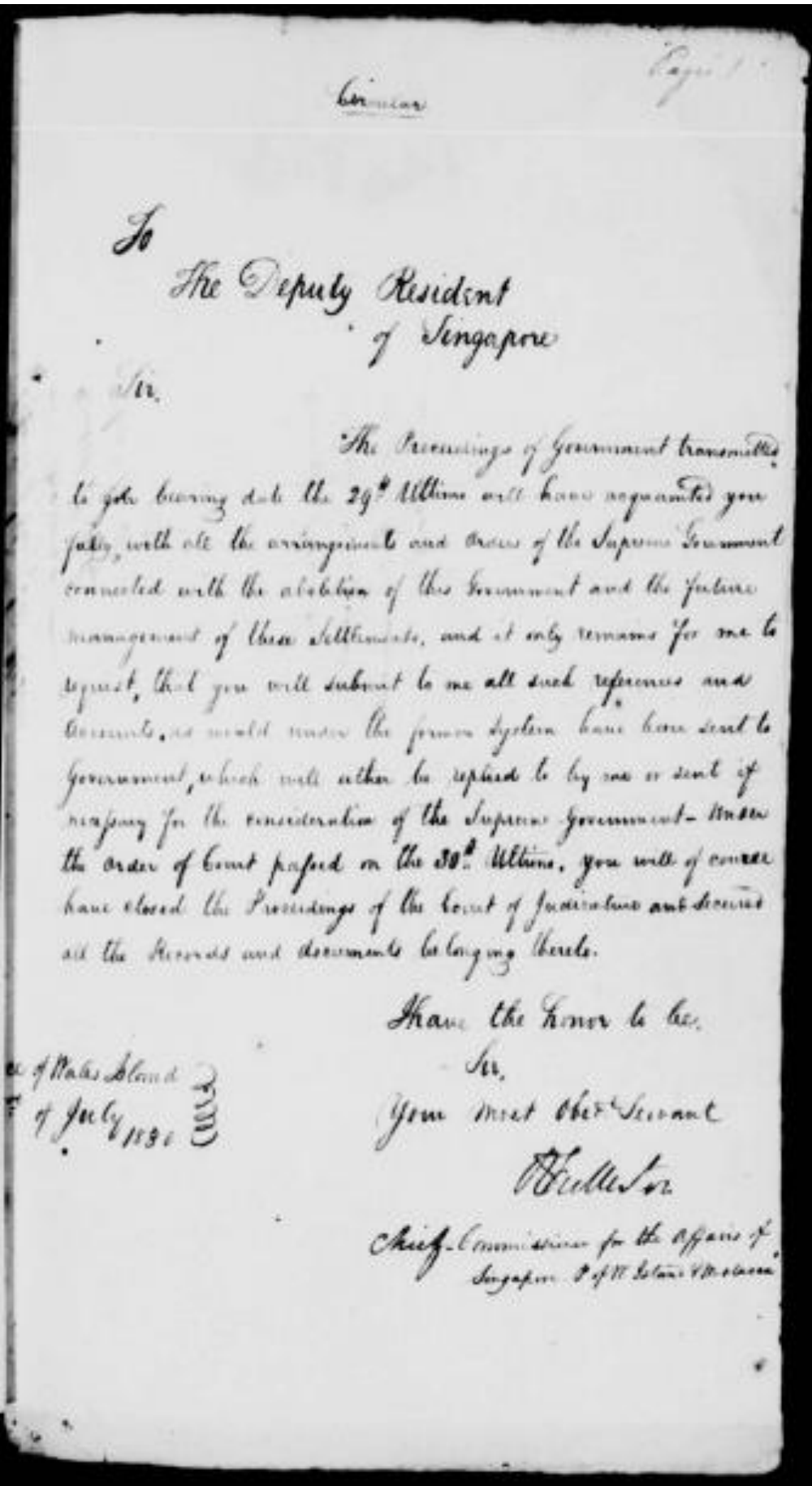
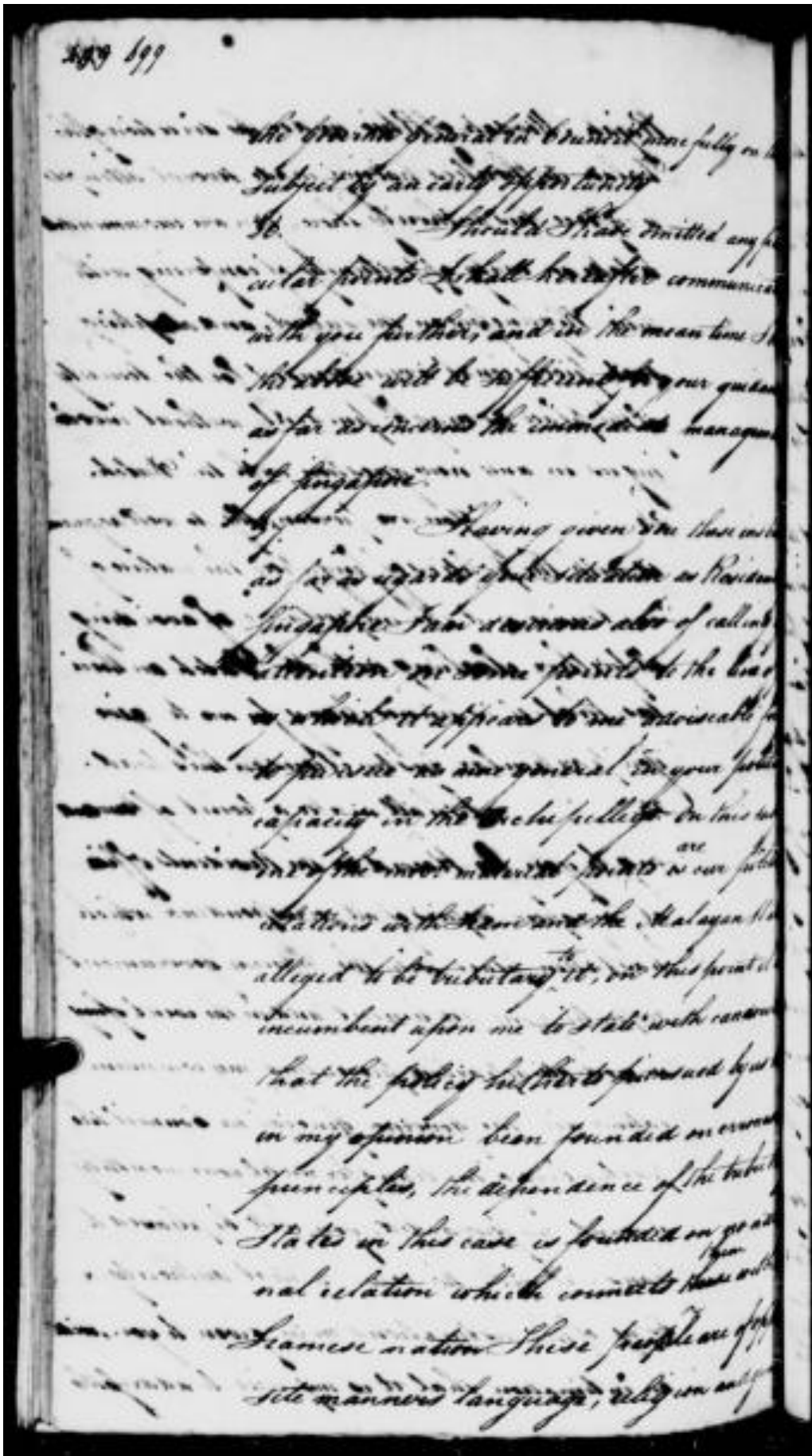
What is in our Document Collection?

1. Straits Settlement Records
 - Approximately 1 million pages, mostly handwritten
 - Mainly colonial government correspondence
2. Not available online
3. Not able to be OCRed for searchability

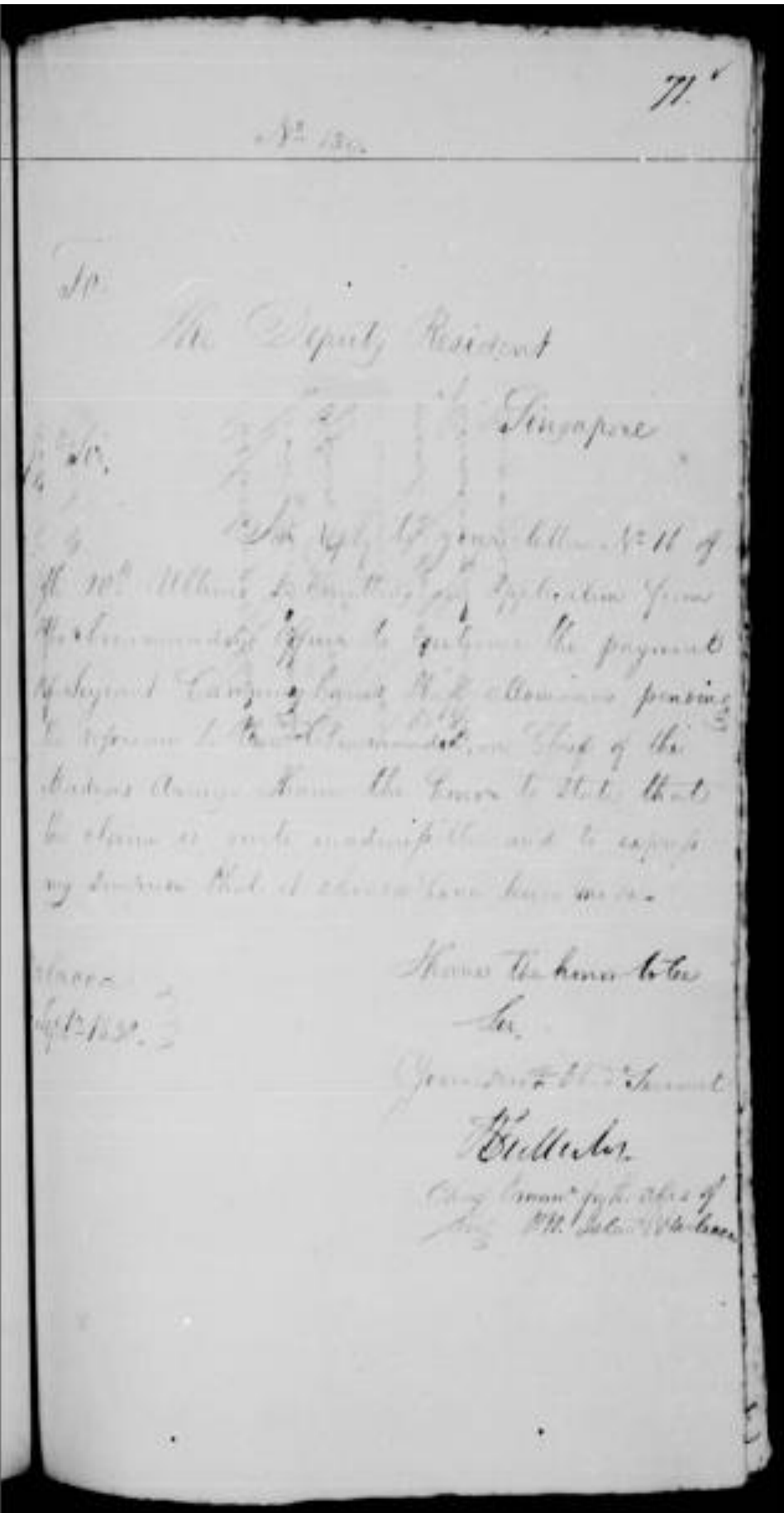
Handwritten Documents Accessible Only On Microfilm



L017: Raffles: Letters to Singapore (Farquhar)



Z006: Singapore: Letters from Governor



How Did We Select and Organise Documents?

1. Legibility
2. Interest to the public
 - Priority for Singapore-related records as some were more directly related to other locations such as Penang and Malacca
 - Records with prominent personalities such as Sir Stamford Raffles

Our Overall Strategy for Both Images and Documents

1. Learning from other websites
 - Gradual release of collections
 - Statistics of 400-1,000 items/month completed
2. 3,000 items for each content type
 - Target to add 1,000 items per month
 - Adjust with respect to topics and participation
3. Focus on limited number of collections to encourage completion
4. Initial target was 3,000 items to be contributed to in a year

We Focused on the Core Features for Launch

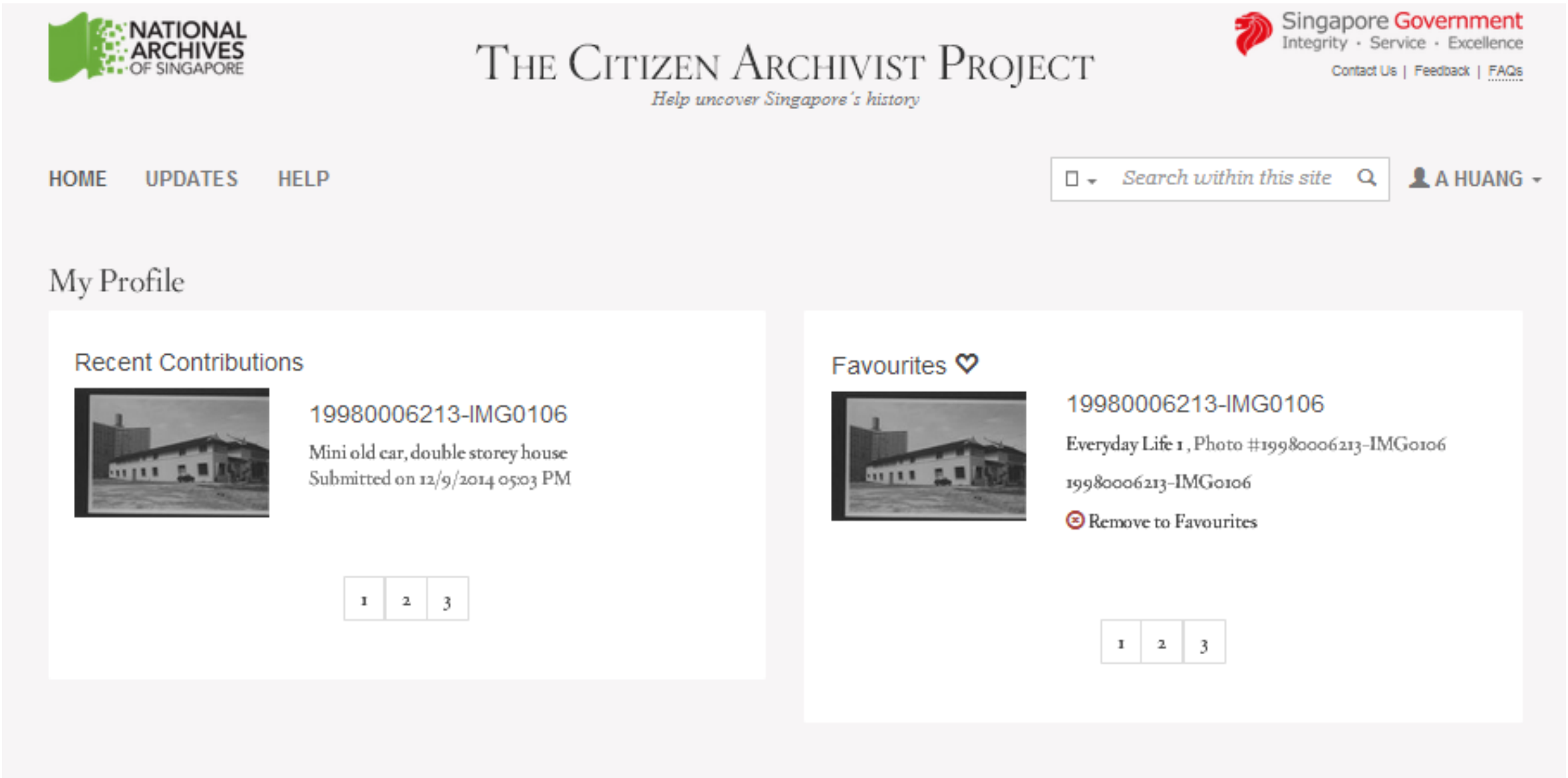
1. Main features developed in-house ready for launch
 - Describe photos (3,000 images)
 - Transcribe documents (3,000 pages)
 - User profile
 - Staff administration and activity tracking backend
2. Core Team Members
 - (NAS) Project Sponsor
 - (NAS) User Manager / Overall Project Manager
 - (TDS) IT Project Manager
 - (TDS) (Solution Architect)
 - (TDS) (UX Design)

We Tried to Address Anticipated Challenges

1. What if the quality of contributions is low?
 - Require login
 - Helper text to encourage full descriptions instead of tagging
 - Review by NAS staff before contributions are integrated into Archives Online, the main catalogue
2. What if there was a lack of interest from the public?
 - Reaching out to interest groups
 - Volunteers acknowledged and rewarded
 - Intuitive website with curated collections



1. Homepage was simple and focused on the two tasks



2. User Dashboard to for users to keep track of their contributions

HOME UPDATES HELP


Search within this site LOG IN/ SIGN UP

Home / Describe Photographs / Uncategorized / 19980005142-0032

Uncategorized

You might enjoy these if you like a challenge! We don't have much information about these images.

19980005142-0032 - [Open] Displaying 364 of 758 photos



Describe Photo

Example: People buying food from a hawker stall along the street in front of shophouse, and also sitting down and eating food. Name on shophouse says Da Tian. Looks to be in the 1960s.

Try describing who and what is in the picture, when it was taken and what event was it taken at.

Please register or login to contribute SUBMIT

Previous Contributions

Be the first to contribute.

Background Information: Unedited Description: NONE Source: MINISTRY OF CULTURE
Media Number: 19980005142-0032

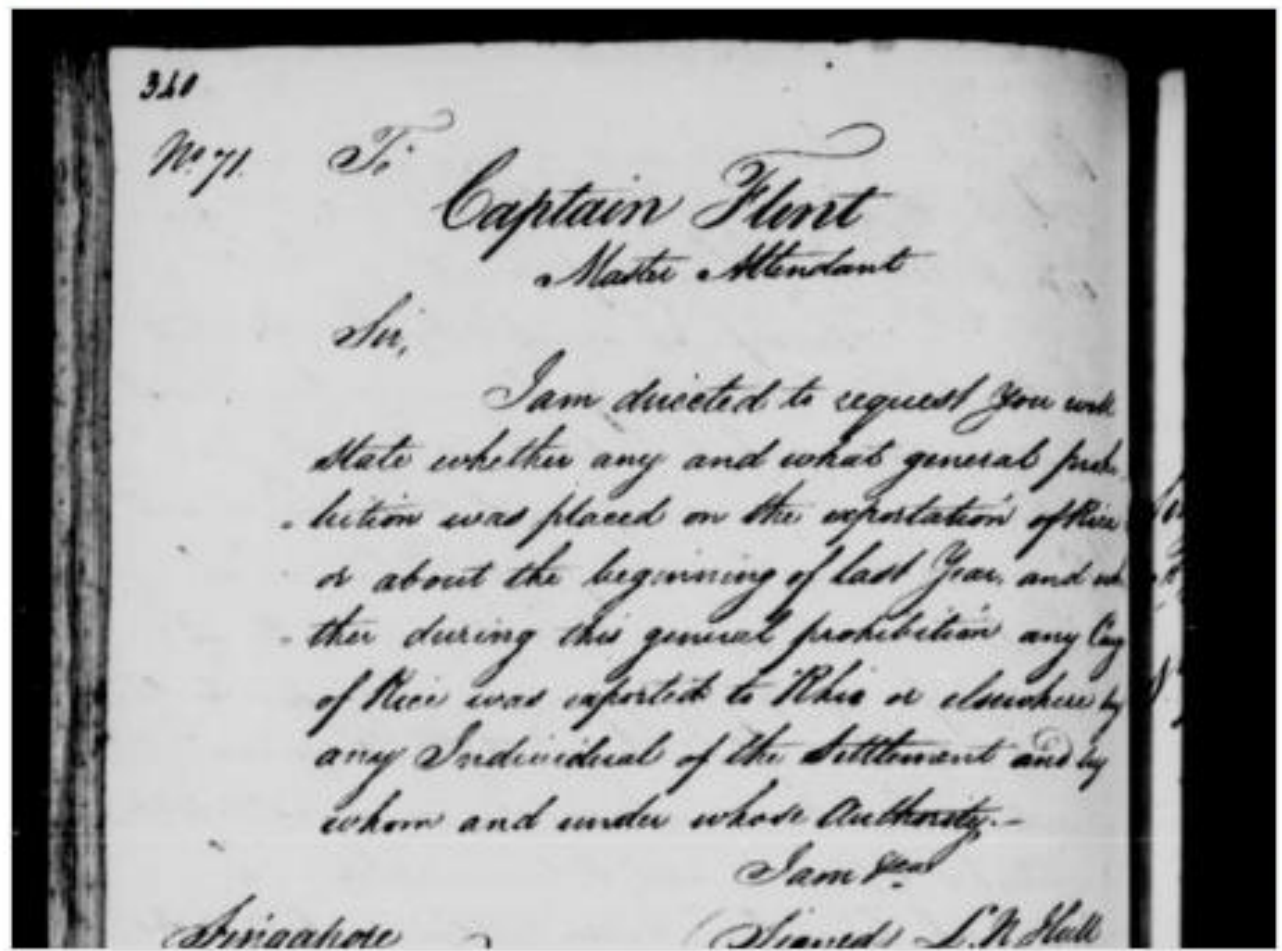
1. Helper text was crucial to encourage detailed descriptions of the images

L17: Raffles: Letters to Singapore (Farquhar)

These are letters written during Raffles' administration of Singapore. This includes instructions given to the Resident and Town Committee for the development of Singapore. This collection spans Jan to Jun 1823.

520 Pages in this collection

L017_01470 - [Open] Displaying 374 of 520 Pages



Transcribe Document

No 71 To Captain Flint Master Attendant
Sir,
I am directed to request you will state whether any and what general prohibition was placed on the

SAVE AS IN-PROGRESS SUBMIT FOR REVIEW

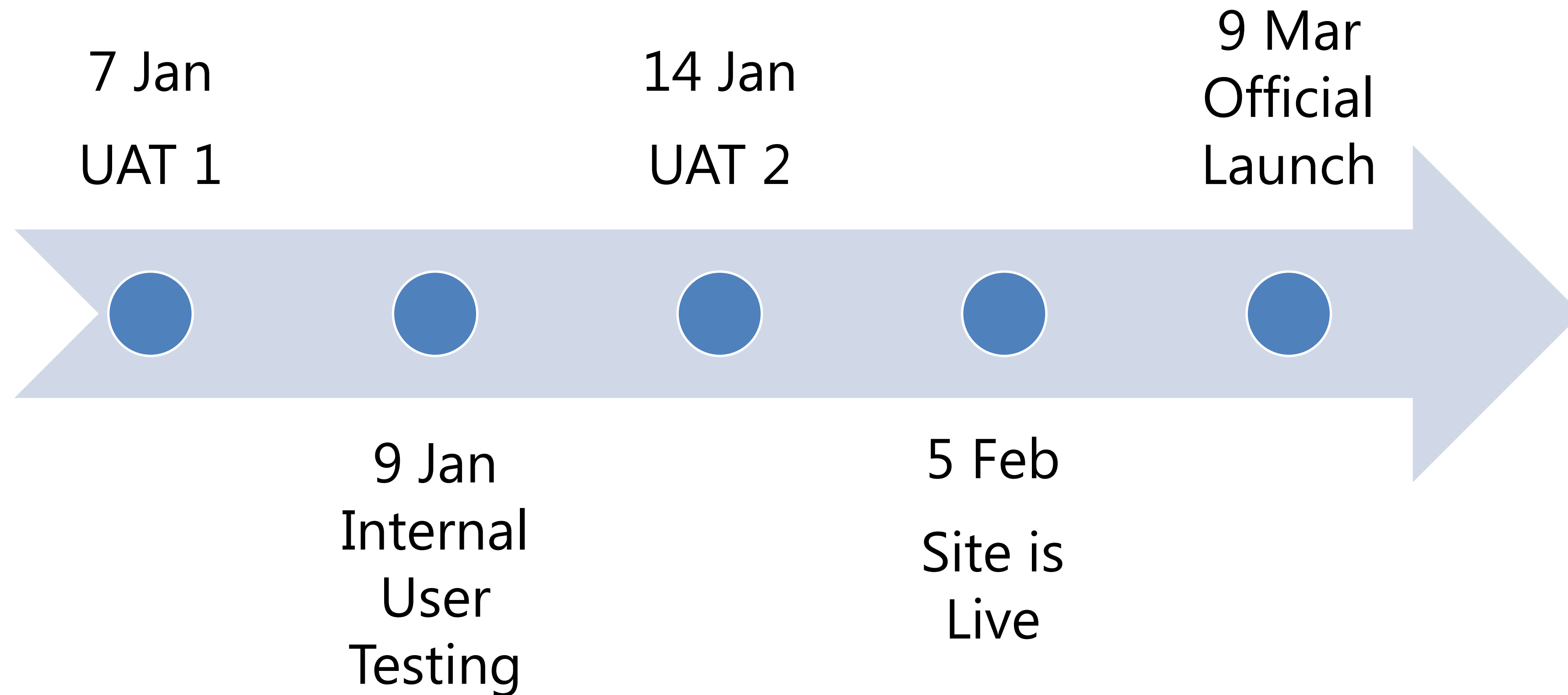
Previous Contributors

Be the first to contribute.

Background Information: NONE
Date: 1823
Media Number: L017_01470

2. Pages for the individual items were simple with just one text box. For documents, contributors could "Save As In-Progress" for someone to continue later.

We Opened Testing to All NLB Staff



We Received Detailed Image Descriptions



Contribution

The long flat building is the roof of Plaza Singapura from Cathay and the photo shows the rest of Orchard road. Hotel Supreme still stands at the current site today behind Concorde Hotel (previously known as Le Meridian Hotel). You can see Shaw Centre with the white 'terraces' in the middle of the photo. Tang Plaza (CkTang) is not built yet. The left side of the photo is Hotel Phoenix and Specialists Centre. Mandarin Hotel is the tallest building in the photo. The condo in from of the hill seems to be High Point in Mt Elizabeth.

by: L. H.L. on 7/14/2015 04:16 PM

Background Information

Unedited Description: GENERAL VIEW FROM CATHAY BUILDING.
Source: MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE ARTS (MITA) FONDS
Date: 04/12/1976



Contribution

Post Office within Paya Lebar International Airport with counters offering Purchase of Money Orders, Stamps, Postal Orders, Registration of letters, Payment of Television & Radio licences, Posting of Parcels and Handling of transactions relating to Savings Banks. Posting Box allows for 2 destinations: Singapore or Malaya & Overseas. Photo is dated 24 Sep 1964.

by: LEE BEE LOR on 3/26/2015 06:24 PM

Background Information

Unedited Description: AIRPORT POST OFFICE. Source: MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE ARTS (MITA) FONDS
Date: 24/09/1964

Transcription Quality was Also High

No. 144 of 1863 362

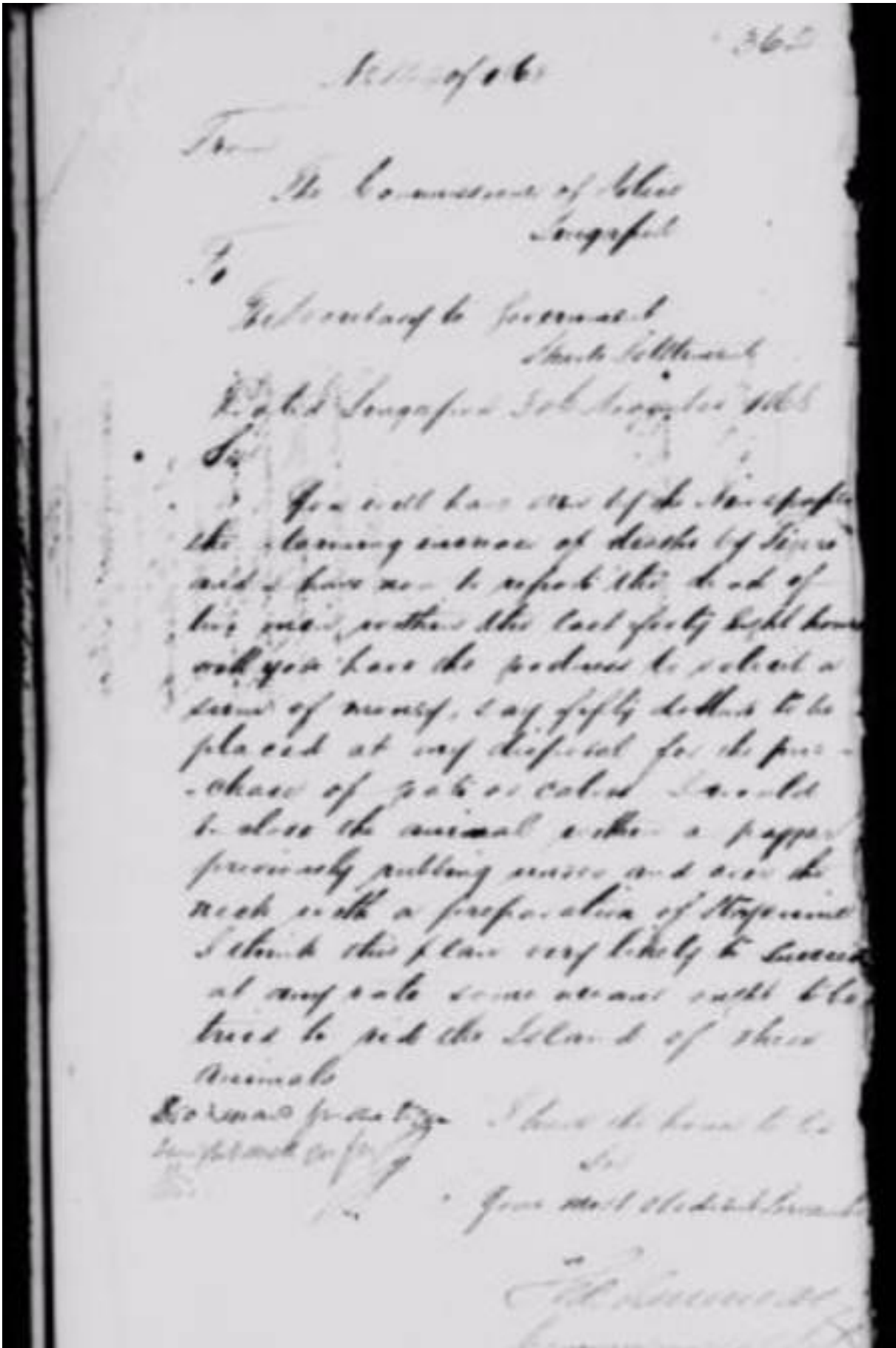
From The Commissioner of Police,
Singapore To The Secretary to
Government Straits Settlements

Dated Singapore 30th November 1863
Sir,

You will have seen by the Newspaper the alarming increase of deaths by tigers and I have now to report the death of two men within the last forty eight hours, will you have the goodness to solicit a sum of money, say fifty dollars to be placed at my disposal for the purchase of goats or calves, I would enclose the animal within a [paygar] previously rubbing under and over the neck with a preparation of strychnine I think this plan very likely to succeed at any rate some means ought to be tried to rid the Island of these animals. [\$50 reward for one tiger that men can for this.]

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant [signature]
Commissioner of Police

W48: Vol. I/II: Governor: Miscellaneous Letters (In) : W048_07290



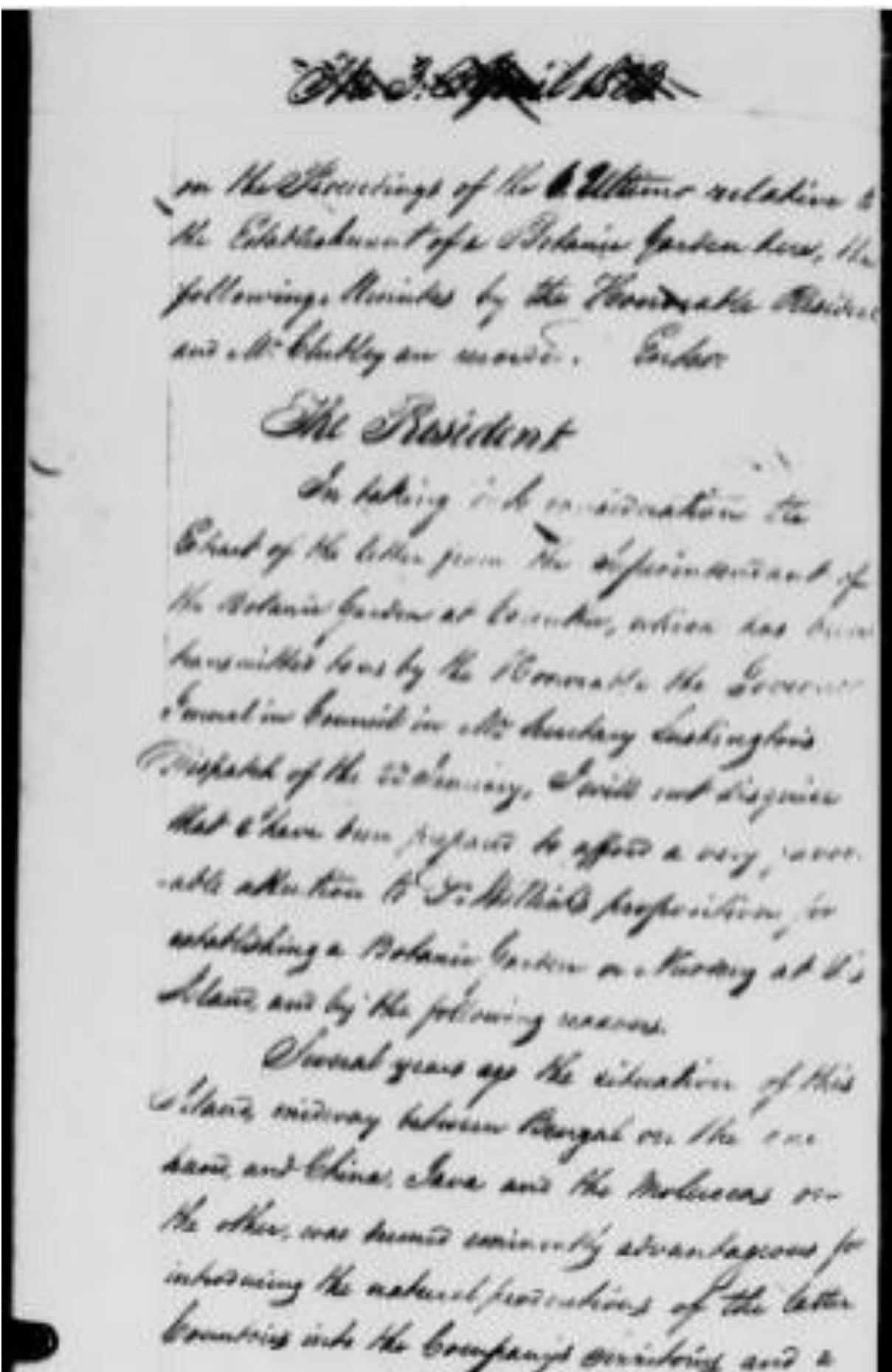
The 3: April 1823.

on the Proceedings of the 6. Ultimo relative to the Establishment of a Botanic Garden here, the following Minutes by the Honorable President and Mr. Clubley are recorded. Enter.

The President.

In taking into consideration the Extract of the letter from the Superintendent of the Botanic Garden at Calcutta, which has been transmitted to us by the Honorable the Governor General in Council in Mr. Secretary Lushington's Dispatch of the 23. January, I will not disguise that I have been prepared to afford a very favourable attention to Dr. Wallich's proposition for establishing a Botanic Garden or Nursery at this Island, and by the following reasons.

Several years ago the situation of this Island, midway between Bengal on the one hand, and China, Java and the Moluccas on the other, was deemed eminently advantageous for introducing the natural productions of the latter Countries into the Company's Territories and a Public



Strategies For Continued Participation

We Worked With Corporate Communications for Media Coverage

Help shed light on historical photos

Online portal goes live for the public to help transcribe records and caption archive images

Lester Hio

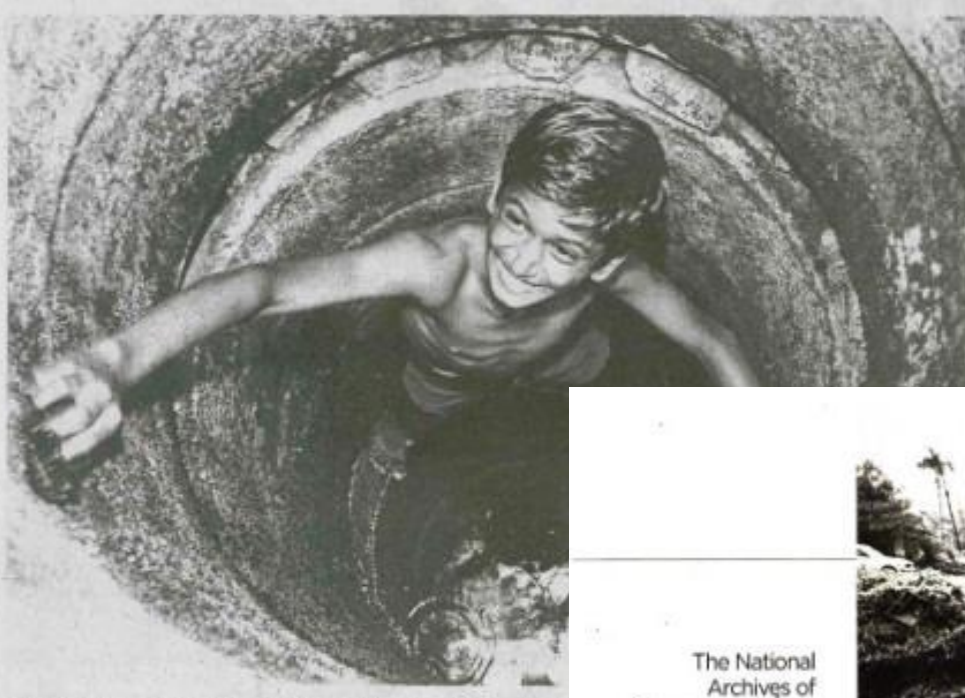
The year was 1823. Stamford Raffles was running Singapore and penning instructions on what he wanted done in the colony.

"Botanic Garden. A railing to be erected," he wrote. "High Road from the Bridge to Rochor River. To be marked out."

Such records going back to the Raffles administration are now being transcribed by members of the public on The Citizen Archivist Project portal (www.nas.gov.sg/citizenarchivist) which went live yesterday.

State archivist Eric Chin and his team hope to piggy back on such efforts as they race to transcribe a million of these records by 2019, the 200th anniversary of Raffles' landing in Singapore.

Mr Chin, director of the National Archives of Singapore (NAS), hit on the idea for the portal three years ago while looking for a particular page in a thickly bound volume of old documents.



Members of the public can share their knowledge about photos like this which were taken yesterday. People can also help to transcribe archival records

Yacob Ibrahim
April 15 at 8:10pm · 🌐

The National Archives of Singapore told me the other day that since the Citizen Archivist Project started a month ago, many Singaporeans have contributed to it. In just one month, about 1200 photos have been described and 700 pages of Straits Settlement Records transcribed!

I was told that the photos of the Singapore and Malaysia Grand Prix in the 60s and 70s were popular among the Citizen Archivists. Another interesting article is a Straits Settlement Record documenting the tough laws in Singapore back in the 19th century. It is not easy deciphering the cursive handwriting in the documents! We can all be Citizen Archivists and contribute in the "crowdsourcing" effort to make Singapore's history more searchable 😊 #yacobibrahim



The Citizen Archivist Project

NAS.GOV.SG

Like · Comment · Share

👍 Noor Fadiah Yusoff, Albert Yu, Tan Jee Hua and 32 others like this.

🔄 3 shares

PM LEE HELPS WITH CAPTION

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong did his part for The Citizen Archivist portal last Wednesday by captioning a picture of his father, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, which appears in the collection.

"Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew at the Tanjong Pagar Community Centre Polling Station on election day on Sept 21, 1963. The 1963



NATURE: A crowd, believed to be Rochor Canal, spanned by a beam bridge with railings on a rainy day. PHOTO: N

The National Archives of Singapore recently launched The Citizen Archivist Project, an initiative that invites Singaporeans to help caption photographs from Singapore's past that have been digitised and posted online. **DOLLY PNG** and **GAO WENXIN** (tnp@sph.com.sg) speaks to an archivist who handles such documents for a living

Vignettes of S'pore history



CAREFUL: Registrar Noor Fadiah Yusoff handling a volume of the Straits Settlements records in the Archives Reading Room

Have you ever wondered what life in Singapore was like in the past?

Ms Noor Fadiah Yusoff, 26, knows better than most. She is a registrar with the National Archives of Singapore (NAS).

But that does not mean she spends her days cooped up in a dusty room.

Ms Fadiah helps facilitate public access to archival records at the Archives Reading Room (ARR), at the National Archives of Singapore building at Capricorn Way.

These include photographs, audio-visual recordings and oral history interviews.

She also helps to digitise old photographs and handwritten documents. This is to minimise the handling of these items, for long-term preservation.

"I have always had an interest in Singapore's history and heritage," she said.

This passion led her to take up history as an undergraduate at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Her thesis was on the cultural preservation of Singapore's heritage with the focus on the 1960s.

Today, she works hard to help others conduct their academic work.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

ed. So far, 3,000 in each category can be found on the newly launched online portal by NAS.

The portal aims to tap on the collective memories of the public, particularly for photographs that have little or no accompanying descriptions.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

"There are many sides to history. By allowing people to contribute, we can build our more detailed and see different perspectives," she said, adding that this can enhance our understanding of historical records.

"There is something for everyone on the portal, such as arts, sports or education. In total, there are over 140,000 photographs and about one million pages of handwritten manuscripts to be uploaded.

慢三拍
吴新慧

历史在一起

澳大利亚航空公司本月中旬宣布它将为其2500名机师换上制服。受委任担任这设计任务的是旅法法国巴黎的澳籍服装设计师格兰特（Martin Grant）。澳航的新闻稿郑重宣布这委任的消息时，还附上这家于1920年11月创立的航空公司，其

都无可避免经过筛选，最后也决定了它最终筛选出来的命运——其历史意义、定位，以及所产生的许多可预计和无法预计的效果。

历史在国家的主体下，总有其政治和意识形态的宣导作用；然而，流行文化和

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

——对镜头头道谢的，就是谢谢所有的电影发烧友。

台湾社会的市井小民，是台湾政治强人去世后社会开放的电影素材。而早期电影中释放的爱国情懷或凄美浪漫的文艺爱情故事，让处在政治与社会转型的台湾人能各取所需，也造就了连香港和新加坡影迷都疯狂的台湾电影事业。宣传这纪录片的文案有这么一段：这是一封写给电影的情书。拍电影和看电影的，在这里穿越银幕与时间的限制，同在一起。

新加坡也有许多“小城故事”，过去是国家的多，现在有更多自己说的故事，也应是如此。个人的故事是与国家的故事共生，自然也应并存，同在一起。而说听故事的人，同样也可以穿越银幕或任何媒介与时间限制，同在一起。

我们的国家档案馆将在今年内翻新，供公众使用的阅读室以及文物保管室的设备将会获得改善。国家档案馆也在力邀民众当“公民档案管理员”，希望凭借群体之力抄录历史文件，并凭借国人的集体回忆为旧照片提供说明，协助推动我国历史的研究。

配合这计划而设立的网路平台（www.nas.gov.sg/citizenarchivist）也

值得一提的是，专门收集与记录所有关于新加坡的记忆的新忆工程（Singapore Memory Project），从2011年起至今，已有超过100万份由公众记录的亲身经历和小故事等小档案。

让历史故事共生，并存，我们更同在一起。（作者是本报副总编辑 gobshe@sph.com.sg）

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

已在今年3月中旬推出，首阶段会上载约3000页海峡殖民地时代的文件及3000张旧照片，有意当公民档案管理员的民众，就可透过该平台为这些档案分别做转录（transcribe）历史成为旧照片补充图说的工作。而经过补充说明的照片及完成转录的每一套文件，也会上载档案馆的线上资料库Archives Online，方便研究员进行检索。

上星期，政府也宣布从年中起，公众将能更快地看由国家档案馆收藏的视听档案。通讯及新闻部长廖国博士说，国家档案馆供人们听阅的完整视听档案已经超过一百万份。今年中起，听阅档案的申请程序以及内部运作程序在简化之后，公众提出申请的同一时间就能听阅档案，不必再等待几天。

值得一提的是，专门收集与记录所有关于新加坡的记忆的新忆工程（Singapore Memory Project），从2011年起至今，已有超过100万份由公众记录的亲身经历和小故事等小档案。

让历史故事共生，并存，我们更同在一起。（作者是本报副总编辑 gobshe@sph.com.sg）

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员

也是语言与文化的活教材。

梁文福本月10日和11日首办个唱，展现的35年音乐道路，因此不只是他个人的音乐与文学创作历程，也是他成长的上世纪七八十年代新加坡社会背景的展现。个人的成长故事加诸国家的经济与社会、年轻人寻求的国家身份认同，以母族语言文化的开拓性探索等，让历史再现不是止于消费与回忆，更是一种记忆所蕴含的认同与力量。那种开放的感动与再生能量，才是凝聚社会的纽带与恒力，不是止于曲终人散的怀旧。

台湾知名纪录片导演杨力州，在1年为走过半世纪的台湾金马奖拍摄马50纪录片《那时 此刻》，目前“新加坡华语电影节”活动上映。

台湾电影文化与影业发展的起起落落不是这纪录片的重点，更不是一种抱怨方式，而是凸显任何电影业的，从剧本创作、演员到整个制作与发产业，都和国家的社会的发展及度一包括影迷有密切不可分的共生关系。州在电影播放后与观众交流时，重申录片高华的看电影的观众和无数数纪录片中结束前每个受访导演和演员



Lee Hsien Loong

Can you spot Mr Lee Kuan Yew in these old photos?

The National Archives of Singapore (NAS) has uploaded its collection of photos and manuscripts onto a new Citizen Archivist Portal. It is inviting the public to write photo captions and transcribe the manuscripts.

I browsed the collection, and spotted my father in this set of photos. I think they were taken on election day on 21 September 1963.... See More

March 10 · Edited

👍 Tay Cam, Chin Wei Jian, Fatima Tuj Mehjabin and 8,566 others like this.

🔄 351 shares

Album: Timeline Photos

Shared with: 🌐 Public

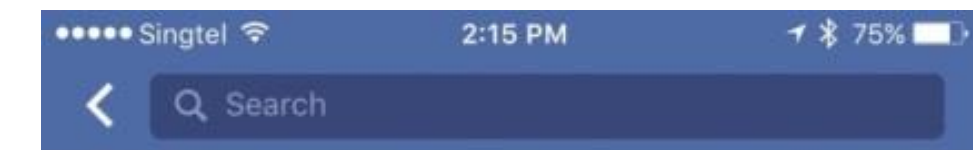
Open Photo Viewer

Download

Embed Post

We Reached Out To Seniors

1. Dedicated Citizen Archivist Project computer station at Woodlands Regional Library
2. Held 2 fully subscribed sessions at the Silver Infocomm Junction in Woodlands Regional Library as part of the "Time of Your Life Festival" in October 2015



Libraries are wonderful learning and social hubs. When I visited Woodlands Regional Library last month, **National Library Board, Singapore** staff showed me the Citizen Archivist Project station. I was glad to meet many library goers, young and old, giving their time to transcribe and contribute information on historical records and old photographs. I also met many seniors, who were enthusiastically learning IT skills at a Silver Infocomm Junction course. I hope that our libraries will continue to be a place of learning and knowledge sharing for everyone. #yaacobibrahim



Any other feedback? *well presented and enthusiastic. Very informative with people knowledgeable on the subject. Thank you.*

Any other feedback? *A useful session, very informative & interesting*

We Reached Out to History Students

1. Established a collaboration with the instructor of the NUS Honours Course "Sources of Singapore History" and "The Craft of History" where students are required to transcribe 2 full handwritten pages as part of their course
2. Briefing sessions for secondary school students who can incorporate this into their 'Values-In-Action' programme
3. Students can clock community service hours for contributions



We Learnt and Continuously Improved the Website

1. Transcription has been the more popular task from the launch
 1. Added more pages to transcribe (now over 45,000 pages) to accommodate interest in transcribing
2. Students found it hard to read the cursive handwriting
 1. Developed a guide to transcribing the records for help with cursive handwriting and archaic terms
3. Volunteers reached out to us and appreciated the human touch
 1. Added new features based on user feedback and tested beta versions with top contributors
 - 1. New toggle layout** for a wider transcription window
 - 2. Pie chart & indicator overlay** to easily view items by status
 - 3. Upgraded search engine** with option to filter based on status
 - 4. More reports** added for ease of monitoring

We Appreciated Our Volunteers for Their Contributions

- Volunteer Appreciation Events
 - Contributions recognised through giving out of certificates
 - Archives-related activities like the viewing of original Straits Settlement records, book-making, behind-the-scenes tour of the NAS or a guided tour of the Former Ford Factory



- *"Just want to say a big 'Thank You' to you and your colleagues for the lovely evening. And many thanks to your bosses too. It was a pleasure being there. Really had a great time meeting and chatting with everyone."*
- *"Thanks for the enjoyable evening and the lovely award and books to boot, which was a pleasant surprise! Good to finally to be able to place faces to names and be acquainted more with NAS!"*
- *"It was interesting to visit the archives last Thursday. Though I expected to see 'the stacks', speaking to the people who take care of the books and organise the programmes turned out to be far more interesting. Thank you for an enjoyable evening."*

New Tasks Have Continually Been Added

Jan 2016 –
Transcribe Oral
History
Recordings

Nov 2017 –
Transcribe and
transliterate
record labels

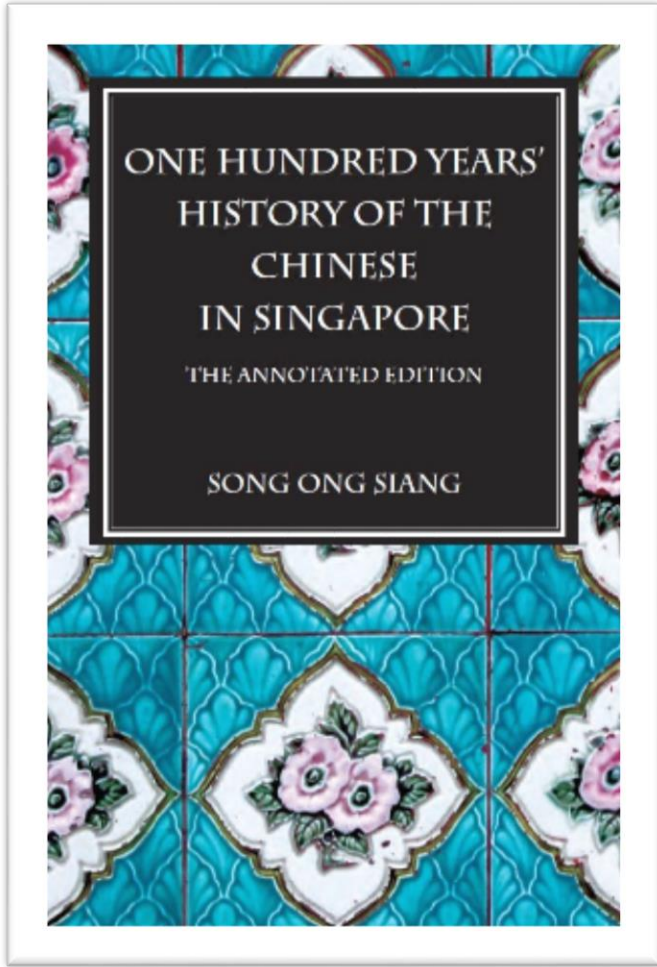
Coming soon –
Upload Sounds

March 2017 –
Annotate e-
Book

June 2018 –
Transliterate
Jawi
Newspapers

Online volunteers also meet in
person as a Jawi interest group at
the National Library

In total, 10 out
of the 17
annotations
received will be
incorporated
into a print
edition of the
annotated One
hundred years’
history of the
Chinese in
Singapore.



There is Increase Accessibility & Discoverability

- Estimated number of hours contributed: 9,668 hours= ~5 working years
- Information is made available on the main catalogue

Source:
Title:
Covering Date:
Scope and Content:
Conditions Governing Access:
Remarks:

[Raffles Museum and Library](#)
K17: Penang: Miscellaneous
1826
Penang: Miscellaneous consists mainly of letters from the Resident Councillor, Robert Fullerton, to various administrative, financial and legal agencies that had been separated into various volumes. This volume covers his correspondence to Mergui and Tavoy in 1826.
Viewing permitted. Use and reproduction only with permission.
Transcribed by Vandana Aggarwal via the Citizen Archivist Portal

PDF

View attachment

Do you have more information on this record?

Source:
Unedited Description Supplied by
Transferring Agency:
Description Edited by NAS:
Covering Date:
Media - Image No:
Negative No:
Conditions Governing Access:
Credit Line:
Remarks:

[MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE ARTS \(MITA\)](#)
GRAND PRIX 1966
Lee Wing Sang on a 50cc Honda CR 110 leading the race round the Sembawang Circus, followed by Lionel Chan on a Suzuki, Ou Teck Wing on a Yamaha and a Japanese rider on a Bridgestone during Singapore Grand Prix 1966
10/04/1966
[19980005202 - 0035](#)
2425/11/03
Viewing permitted. Use and reproduction only with permission.
Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore
Contribution received from Jeff Lau via Citizen Archivist portal

Do you have more information on this record?

1

To

The Secretary to Government
Fort Cornwallis

Sir,

I am commanded by the Honble the Governor to enclose Three Indents as per margin
[margin: No 1 For Stationary
No 2 Marine Stores
No 3 Military Do] forwarded by the Commissioner for the Provinces of Tavoy and Mergui and to request you will obtain the sanction of the Honble the Governor in Council for the Supply of the Articles therein specified.
I have the honor to be
Sir
Prince of Wales Island Your most obedient servant
The 15th Of July 1826 Signed W.E. Fullerton
Secretary to the Honble
the Gov'r for the affairs
of the Ceded Districts

2

To,

A.D. Maingy Esquire
Commissioner for the Provinces
of Mergui & Tavoy.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 9th June I shall avail myself of the opportunity to make a few general observations arising out of your late communication.
First- As to the monopoly of the Elephants teeth as well as the cutting of the Sapan wood on public account. It must be remembered that both arose out of circumstances of the Country at the first Settlement, both these had previously been conducted by the Public Officers, the continuance of the practice was necessary or else the work must have ceased and the revenue would have been lost, but whenever Private Merchants show an inclination to come forward in its provision and whenever the labourer begins to understand the substitution of free for compulsive labor
[end of transcript for current page]

For online reference viewing only For online reference viewing only

34

Restricted

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE
An institution of the National Library Board

NLB

National Library Board
Singapore

There is Increased Awareness and Sustained Engagement

"As I continue transcribing the Straits Settlement records, I'm learning more about Singapore's past that relates to the present, and see how far we have progressed, especially with our celebrating Singapore's 50th independence this year. I also hope my efforts will help make those researching on the Singapore story easier."

"Thank you for this opportunity to transcribe important collections of papers in the National Archives. As a lifelong student of history it is overwhelming for me to read original transcripts and an honour to have the privilege of transcribing them. I feel like an important participant in what happened 200 years ago."

"Indeed my participation has been driven by both a wish to contribute in building up our national repository as well as my own knowledge!"

"Joining Citizen Archivist Project was one of my better decisions."



The screenshot displays the Citizen Archivist Project website. At the top, a group photo of volunteers is shown. Below it, the headline reads "Reliving history" with a sub-headline: "More than 250 volunteers have transcribed the Straits Settlements Records as part of the Citizen Archivist Project". The main content area features a grid of historical photographs and text in Chinese. The text describes the project's goal to transcribe historical records and mentions that volunteers have already transcribed over 2,700 records. The website also includes a navigation bar with links for "COLLECTION", "GUIDE", "SHARING", and "LINKS", and a section titled "ABOUT THIS SITE".

Information In the Archives is Getting “Out of the Box and Into the World”

Original blog post by Citizen Archivist

Special Project - Citizen Archivist

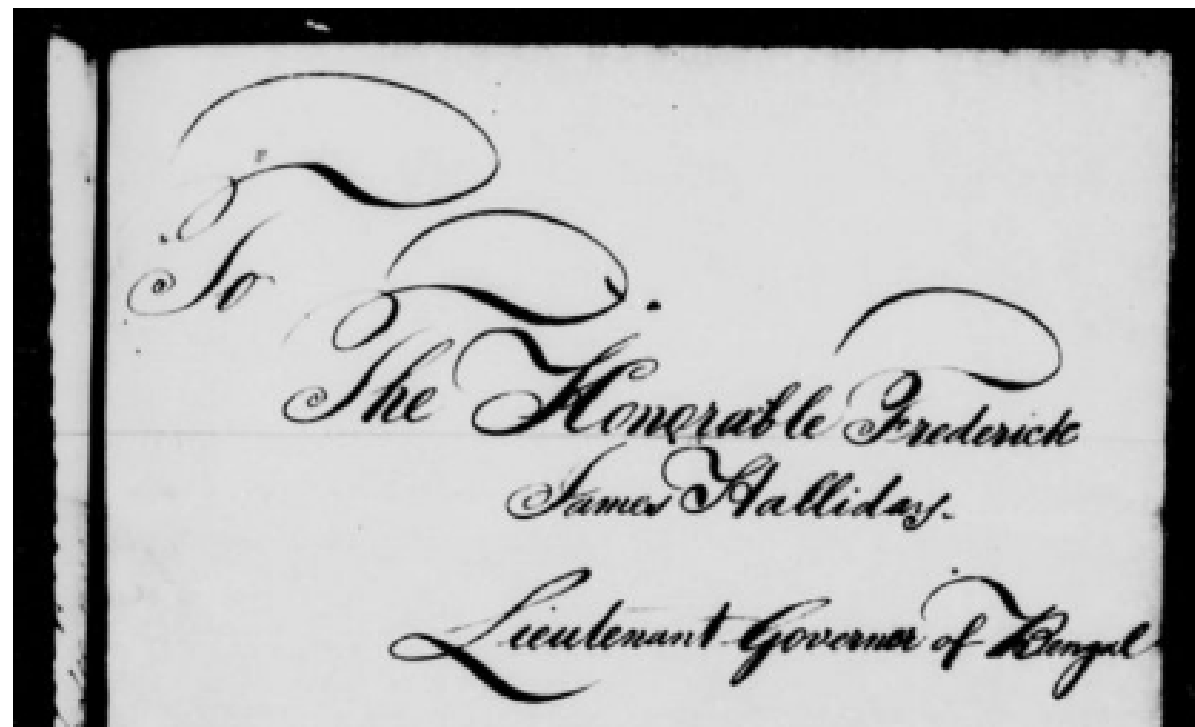
The Mystery of Kunnuck Mistree

Posted by Kevin Khoo on Jun 28, 2016 in Special Project - Citizen Archivist

The National Archives of Singapore launched the [Citizen Archivist Project](#) in March 2015, inviting members of the public to assist in making archival records more accessible. One of our volunteer transcribers, Ms Vandana Aggarwal, writes about an Indian migrant, Kunnuck Mistree, whose life story captured in the records piqued her interest.

The Mystery of Kunnuck Mistree

While transcribing the Straits Settlements Records for the National Archives of Singapore, I stumbled across the story of a convict named Kunnuck Mistree.^[1] History books dealing with that period make no mention of him, yet he piqued my interest for the fascinating story that I reconstructed in my mind, from my understanding of history and the historical Straits Settlements records. After all it is not every day that one comes across repeated references to a common man, and a convict at that, in Government records!



Citation in Master’s Thesis

As far as archival collections go, Mistree’s petition presents a rich cache of detail; picking through the supporting documents, a picture of the life of Kunnuck Mistree emerges. But the petition reveals much not just about his incarceration as a British penal transportee, but also about the impact on the transfer of Bencoolen on convict lives. Hitherto, however, Mistree has remained anonymous, unstudied by the historian, and only recently attracting the attention of archivists.⁷⁹ Given this detail, and the rarity of a convict being referred to by name, this chapter will delve into Mistree’s life history as a jumping-off point, as it considers the impact of the transfer of Bencoolen

⁷⁸ SSR/S026, To Frederick James Halliday, “The humble Petition of Kunnuck Mistree a convict now undergoing his sentence of transportation in the Settlement of Singapore”, 14 Aug 1856.

⁷⁹ In fact, his first mention appears to be in an article detailing the efforts of volunteer archivists in digitally transcribing the Straits Settlements Records in Singapore. See Vandana Aggarwal, ‘Reliving History’, *Tablā*, 8 April 2016; Vandana Aggarwal, ‘The Mystery of Kunnuck Mistree’, *Off The Record: Articles by Archivists — National Archives of Singapore*, 28 June 2016, <http://www.nas.gov.sg/blogs/offtherecord/the-mystery-of-kunnuck-mistree/>. I thank Kar Min Lim for drawing my attention to these articles.

Newspaper Feature

On the paper trail of 19th-century philanthropist

None of this might have been unearthed if not for the Citizen Archivist Project, which began in 2015 and invites the public to transcribe historical documents and oral interviews, and describe photographs. As of last week, 436 volunteers have transcribed more than 24,000 pages and 1,800 photos all together.

The documents are accessed online. Volunteers can transcribe Straits Settlements Records, the Field Notebooks of botanist C. E. Carr, and Lyrics From Yesteryear: 1920s-1970s. The National Archives of Singapore recently uploaded 47 volumes, or 16,394 pages, of the Straits Settlements Records. These mainly relate to Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles and date back to the early 19th century.

By next month, the public can transcribe and translate music record labels. These records are in Vietnamese, Khmer, Thai and Burmese. They trace the development of Singapore as an important regional centre for recording music from the 1900s to the early 1980s.

Mrs Aggarwal’s obsession with Kunnuck Mistree has landed her a small place in the footnotes of history. An article she wrote for the National Archives of Singapore was cited last year in the master’s thesis of someone from a university in the Netherlands.

She does extra research to find out more about the context of each document. Once, she sent a script she thought was written in Urdu to five people in India, before an Arabic teacher in Singapore pointed out it was Jawi and helped her translate it into English.

Volunteer Daisy Fong, 55, said: “I thought the (Straits Settlements Records) would be about war, pirates, convict rebellions, but no. They talk about regular things like sick leave.”

Poring over the old documents, the finance professional learnt that Penang used to be called Prince of Wales Island, and Tan Tock Seng Hospital was known as the Chinese Pauper Hospital.

Old writings could be in cursive, or be illegible because the ink has either faded or seeped into the other side of the page. Sometimes, a “u” looks like an “n” or “r”, and an “e” might be mistaken for an “i”.

Volunteers can consult a guide which contains, among other things, expressions and units of measurements used during the colonial era and an alphabet style guide.

Research assistant Sandy Wang, 23, who helped create the guide during an internship two years ago, is now transcribing an index sheet for letters to the Governor at Penang.

This might seem like a mundane task. But history is not just about the “big events”, she said. “It’s also everyday, mundane things... it’s about human experience.”

Thank you



SARBICA International Symposium 2019 : 24-28 June 2019 Singapore



Rethinking Archives

Reframing Boundaries, Imagining Possibilities

Hear esteemed professionals and speakers explore the intersection of privacy, security, and the management and preservation of records and data on one hand, as well as the innovative deployment of archives and oral history in citizen engagement.

Expand your professional networks.

Organised by



SARBICA

Southeast Asia Regional Branch
Branche Régionale pour l'Asie du Sud-Est

Hosted by



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
OF SINGAPORE
An institution of the National Library Board



Registration and other details at

<http://www.sarbicasymposium2019.net>