

# L A S I E

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Edited by David J. Jones

In monitoring printed materials published in Indonesia, the National Library of Indonesia cooperates with a range of government, commercial and foreign institutions specialising in certain fields of study in an informal information network, which is the foundation of the national library system. The author traces the origins of the National Library of Indonesia and its record in bibliographic control, and outlines achievements and current developments. He concludes that there is now an almost complete listing of current books produced nationally, thanks to 1990 legal deposit legislation and cooperation among regional libraries, although problems still persist in acquiring government publications.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL IN INDONESIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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### THE BACKGROUND

What is bibliographic control? Although the term itself is not clearly definable and some existing definitions differ in detail, the essential idea is quite concrete and consistent. It is essentially "the development and maintenance of a system of adequate recording of all forms of materials published and unpublished, printed, audio-visual and otherwise." (Library Association, 1964, quoted in Davinson, 1981: 7). It has nothing to do whatsoever with any attempt to censor or repress the output of publishers or to make judgements on the quality of literature. The word "control" only denotes an effort to ensure that all is gathered in without any attempt at selection.

Why is bibliographic control necessary? To provide a service to the public, by listing materials in a bibliographic manner so that would-be users might be alerted to and aware of their

existence. So in simpler terms it is a concept of systematically listing written documents or other forms of recorded knowledge. And this brings in the question of access, which is apparently still more important. In other words, the compilation of bibliographies is not an end in itself but merely the means to an end. In the so called "information age" which is rapidly becoming a basic and fundamental aspect of the global economy, information is a major and very valuable product in itself. Access to information is a prerequisite for participation in the emerging global information marketplace.

### THE NETWORK

The objective of library networking is obvious: it is a cooperative library activity as a means of enhancing regional collections through cost-effective methods using shared resources. It is rapidly moving from a stage of cooperation

to a new reality of interdependence as connectivity matures.

In Indonesia, a network of libraries specialising in certain subjects, informally called the national information network, started to emerge in the early 1970s among conscious librarians and information specialists. Various disciplines are maintained by institutions concentrating on the subject, such as documents of agricultural sciences which are provided by the Center for Agricultural Library and Research Communication in Bogor, science and technology by the Centre for Scientific Documentation and Information (Pusat Dokumentasi dan Informasi Ilmiah - PDII), health and medical sciences by the Ministry of Health library, and social sciences and humanities by the National Library of Indonesia (the last three all in Jakarta), just to name a few. Each can be considered a national library in its own field, as each deals mostly with a specific range of subjects.

The need was felt for a resource-sharing scheme between all types of libraries and documentation centres, as indications have revealed that when facilities, collections and services are improved the number of library users increases significantly. Certain users have been asking for sophisticated services that unfortunately cannot be met by existing resources as yet. While it may be too expensive for a particular library to meet such demands presently, linking a specific area with the network at national, regional and international levels is most reasonable.

In addition to the national information network, there exists the integrated national library system, based on a directive of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the early

1980s. "Basic Policies for Library Development in Indonesia" states that the development of libraries should be directed at the realisation of a national system to meet the needs of information for education, research and culture. Also mandated is the task of improving reading interest among the people, particularly the younger generation. The national library system thus comprises:

- The National Library of Indonesia
- regional libraries (including mobile libraries)
- public libraries
- school libraries
- university libraries
- special libraries

The provision of information depends largely on the presence of libraries and information centres, which may be categorised as above. As with other aspects of Indonesian development, however, their present state of development is rather uneven.

Based on past experience it is understood that without a formal agreement between participating libraries or information network nodes, it is quite difficult to maintain and develop a library cooperation and information network. So, during a meeting held by the National Library in Semarang, Central Java, on 12 March 1996, most of the leading libraries representing various disciplines or subject areas agreed that the National Library should prepare and produce formal procedures concerning library cooperation and information network.

The formal agreement which followed the meeting was intended to support the earlier formal agreements made between the National Library and other pertinent agencies in

Indonesia which are responsible for the development of different types of libraries. The agreement covers two major areas, the first involving library management and information networking, and the second involving the mechanism or procedures for library cooperation and information networking. A further meeting was held in August 1998 in Yogyakarta, and was attended by librarians and government officials from the surrounding area. This resulted in an action plan to improve coordination of resource sharing. Follow-up meetings are intended to be held once a year in different cities around the country.

### **THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF INDONESIA**

Libraries in Indonesia are being developed both as part of a programme of national development and, at the same time, as a means of accelerating the implementation of national development itself. Libraries in Indonesia are being developed to improve the standard of knowledge and proficiency of the nation in order to become an effective human resource for the progress of the nation.

This means that on the one hand libraries in Indonesia still have to deal with campaigns to encourage the reading habit and to promote user education, especially in the rural areas. On the other hand the libraries are also ready to act as an information agency to serve educated members of society for study, reference and research activities.

In general, libraries are concerned with the collection of the records of cultural achievement, and organising them effectively so that they may be easily retrieved and used. Libraries,

particularly national libraries, are repositories of the records produced, and this task is becoming increasingly immense in terms of the amount of recorded culture that needs to be collected and organised. The National Library of Indonesia thus has a very crucial mission: collecting written documents from local publishers, and listing them in the *Bibliografi Nasional Indonesia* (BNI).

The National Library was established by ministerial decree on 17 May 1980 as a realisation of an integrated national library system. The National Library's components, i.e. manpower, collection and resources, resulted as an incorporation of four libraries in Jakarta which were created earlier within the Ministry of Education and Culture. Within this Ministry, the National Library became a subordinate body of the Directorate General of Culture.

The four libraries which made up the National Library were the National Museum library, the History, Politics and Social Sciences (SPS) library, the Regional Library of Jakarta, and the Bibliography and Deposit Division, Center for Library Development.

At the time of integration, they held a total of nearly 600,000 volumes, the biggest amount ever assembled by a single library in the country. The staff, which numbered about 200, had the challenging task of managing this very large collection, which was housed in three separate temporary locations in the capital.

The second phase of development took place came in 1989 when the National Library merged with the Center for Library Development, also a component of the Ministry of Education and Culture, under a Presidential decree. The 26 existing regional libraries

(described below) which spearheaded the campaign for library service at the provincial level, joined the unification process. By this integration, the National Library was transferred from the Ministry and became a non-ministerial government institution (LPND) responsible directly to the President. At the same time, it now has a new responsibility besides the main one of collecting and preserving nationally published materials.

In accordance with one of its functions based on the Presidential Decree No. 11/1989, the National Library has the task and responsibility to develop and foster all types of library and to support library cooperation in the country. This is quite an arduous task, unusual for a national library. Its main and most significant mission, however, is to serve the information needs of society, and to maintain and conserve printed and recorded materials. Therefore, according to the Decree, the National Library has the function of a national coordinator or national focal point for the existing library and information centres throughout the country.

## THE COLLECTIONS

Most of the National Library's assets originated from the collection of the National Museum Library, which held all Dutch colonial publications dating from the 17th century onwards. During that period, there was an act imposed on publishers of the Netherlands East Indies to submit a copy of their latest publications to the Library. Hence, the language of the materials is mostly Dutch. Items from the collection comprised largely the social sciences and humanities, an area in which the National Library is designated to fulfil, consisting all types of documents such as books, serials, and

reference materials (encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, etc.).

The high percentage of Dutch language materials is a barrier often preventing younger staff, who have little knowledge of the Dutch language, from cataloguing them. Likewise, the majority of users find it rather difficult to comprehend the language, except for the very few who have the ability to speak and write Dutch: those senior citizens who, during the colonial times, had the opportunity to attend the elementary and high schools largely reserved for children of Dutch expatriates. Though Indonesia was a Dutch colony for more than 350 years, Dutch is no longer considered the "second" language: since independence the use of English has grown considerably. Nevertheless, this handicap is significant since the National Library has a mission to serve researchers who have the need to use those very materials.

Besides fostering the deposit collection of Indonesian publications, the National Library also serves as a repository for documents of the United Nations and its organs, a task that has been carried out by the Museum Library since 1948. Even during World War II, the Japanese colonial government (1942-1945) sent their publications to the Museum Library. They consisted mostly of Indonesian materials, in addition to several newspapers and journals printed in Japanese.

After Indonesia gained its independence in 1945, the acquisition of materials slowed because the newly-formed government disregarded a Netherlands Indies regulation concerning the submission of every new document published in the country to the Museum Library. Since then recommendations have poured in for this sort of rule to be embodied

into a legal deposit act. It was not until 45 years later that this law came into existence: it became operational under the Deposit Act for Printed and Recorded Materials (no. 4 of 1990). This specifies that two copies of every new title produced by the national publishing industry and/or bearing a national imprint should be submitted to and deposited at the National Library.

Other collections vary from monographs, serial publications, dissertations, maps, audio-visuals, and special materials such as microforms, paintings, braille and manuscripts. Acquisition of these materials may come from purchase, exchange, or gift and donations from government and private institutions, and also individuals. Of them all, the oriental manuscript collection is worth mentioning due to its unique characteristics. This collection is the most comprehensive and significant compared with manuscript collections in other institutions. It can now be categorised as a rare collection, and is of national cultural heritage significance. The collection has been built up for more than 200 years, and came from the relentless efforts of a number of Dutch researchers and philologists. It consists of a variety of writing materials of the past according to their place of origin, such as bamboo, tree bark, rattan, palm leaves, daluang, besides plain paper. They are (hand)written in different languages and characters from all parts of the archipelago, from the ancient times to the present.

The National Library is making every effort to give the best service to users by, among other things, making available several kinds of manuscript catalogue. For documentation and research purposes manuscripts are copied onto microfilm. The original documents can only be examined or used on special request.

Another method of viewing which is still in the planning stages, includes the use of CD-ROMs or optical disks containing images of the manuscripts. As in more developed countries, this type of media will ultimately revolutionise the traditional practice of reading rare materials. Catalogue cards serve as searching tools, in addition to OPAC terminals found in every floor of the building. These terminals make up the multiuser environment of the library automation system, VTLS, employed since 1991. The database can also be accessed using a dial-up connection with a PC, modem, appropriate communication software, and telephone line.

The National Library does not circulate its books, and readers are only allowed to use the materials within the Library building. Besides photocopying, the National Library provides current awareness services on selected journals and subjects, with users receiving copies of contents lists upon signing up as members of this utility. Other services are quick reference, literature searching using local and foreign sources, referral questions, CIP (Cataloguing in Publication) and ISBN. The interlibrary loan (ILL) policy has also been declared, but in reality it is a procedure of sending photocopied documents to requesting users rather than exchanging hardcopies. Many factors made this ILL a constraint, such as unreliable postage and handling, irresponsible users and staff alike, and other unpredictabilities in and out of the library.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTING**

Two of the four components that made up the National Library, the National Museum library and the Bibliography and Deposit

Division, had the important task of collecting all printed materials published in the country. The difference was that the National Museum library carried out the mission during the Dutch colonial period, from the 17th century to just before the start of World War II, before the Indonesian government took over control of the institution in the 1960s. Founded in 1778 as the *Bibliotheek Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen* (Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences), the library contributed the largest collection of the four, nearly 450,000 titles. The Indonesian imprints of the pre-war (World War II) period since the 17th century comprised monographs, periodicals, newspapers, maps and graphic materials. These were voluntarily deposited by publishers, even during the absence of a legal deposit act.

The Kantor Bibliografi Nasional or KBN (National Bibliography Center) was the forerunner of the Bibliography and Deposit Division, and since the early 1950s collected all materials published with Indonesian imprints and listed them in *Berita Bulanan* (Monthly News). As implied by its title, the News registered current publications at monthly intervals from 1953 to 1962, with an annual cumulation. Each issue comprised about 50-100 titles. In 1963, it changed its name to *Bibliografi Nasional Indonesia* (BNI) (Indonesian National Bibliography), and its frequency changed from monthly to quarterly. Although the years between 1963 and 1973 saw irregularities in its frequency, the coverage increased by an average of 50 titles per issue, along with the progress of printing companies and publishing houses. In over 40 years, BNI has undergone many changes, and has survived many fluctuations.

Acquisition as described earlier was either by

purchase, exchange or gift. However this was not always plain sailing: it relied heavily on access to funds. Even then, the Office received publications from willing publishers, particularly the commercial ones. The Office was later transformed into the Bibliography and Deposit Division in 1975, without changing its predecessor's main task: collecting printed materials and publishing BNI. During the integration period in 1980, its collection approached 40,000 titles.

In both cases, none of the collection may be borrowed since they are meant solely for reference purposes. Nonetheless, both schemes, the pre-war and post-war (before the 1970s), had succeeded in gathering nearly 75% of the estimated book production in Indonesia. The rest accounts for non-commercial materials, mostly government publications, which are not publicly available. With government publications, the Bibliography and Deposit Division, a unit within the organization of the Ministry of Education, experienced trouble when dealing with government publishers: most of the time they were reluctant to submit their publications, a condition which is still prevalent. In spite of that, in cooperation with foreign institutions in Jakarta the Division regularly receives in hard copies those "hard to get" documents, or microfiches, or magnetic tapes listing their bibliographic data, as explained later.

Since 1983, BNI under the administration of the National Library collected not only publications received through its regular source, i.e. purchase, exchange or gifts. It further enhanced its coverage by including the following source of data, such as:

- accession lists from the Centre for Scientific Documentation and Information (PDII)

- acquisition lists from the National Library of Australia (NLA)
- Berita Bibliografi (Bibliography News), from the Idayu Foundation
- Bibliografi Daerah (Regional Bibliography), from the regional libraries (see below for further information)
- Daftar Buku IKAPI (IKAPI Booklist), from the Indonesian Publishers' Association
- Library of Congress catalogue records, from the LC Field Office in Jakarta (see below for further information)

Until 1985, the quarterly-published *BNI* cumulated its three preceding issues of one year into the fourth issue. This method did assist users in locating a specific title quite fast with a minimum effort, since all the publications contained in the four issues were systematically indexed into a single file. It conformed to the principles of compiling national bibliographies as established by Unesco's *Guidelines for the National Bibliographic Agency and the National Bibliography* (Unesco, 1979). Unfortunately, due to budget constraints cumulation had to be abandoned. It resulted in the absence of a cumulated index since all the fourth editions in an issuing year are then treated the same as the other three, a troublesome approach for those who require quick information on a specific document. The budget cut has also affected the number of publications included in an issue.

Historically, bibliographic listing in Indonesia can be traced back to the 19th and early 20th century during the colonial period. A noted Dutch bibliographer at that time, G. Ockeloen, managed to compile one of the most comprehensive bibliographies of the Netherlands East Indies ever made. Regarded by many as a pioneer in the field, he succeeded in

listing a nearly complete bibliography of monographs as well as serials, dating from 1870 to 1954, in no fewer than ten volumes. Another prominent Dutchman of the same field, Jacobus Anne van de Chijs, had also gathered such materials, but of an earlier period, ranging from 1659 to 1870. Bibliographers of the contemporary period included, among others, Mastini Hardjoprakoso, a specialist in Indonesian of the pre-war period, and J. N. B. Tairas, a prolific writer of numerous books and articles on bibliography and bibliographic standards. All these individuals eventually formed the basis of Indonesian and contributed to the field of librarianship the expertise and art of making bibliographies in respect to bibliographic control.

These retrospective bibliographies by Ockeloen and Chijs were then enhanced by publications covering a more current period, mainly during the decade of 1940s where Indonesia was preoccupied with the Japanese military government (1942-1945) and revolutionary war (1945-1949). The following are examples of the bibliographies:

- *Preliminary checklist of Indonesian imprints during the Japanese period (March 1942-August 1945) with annotations* by J. M. Echols. Ithaca: Cornell University, 1963 (250 titles)
- *Catalog of Indonesian publications during Japanese occupation, 1942-1945*. Jakarta: Perpustakaan Nasional, 1983 (300 titles)
- *Preliminary checklist of Indonesian imprints (1945-1949) with Cornell University holdings* by J. M. Echols. Ithaca: Cornell University, 1965 (1782 titles)
- *A checklist of Indonesian serials in the Cornell University Library (1945-1970)* by Yvonne Thung and J. M. Echols. Ithaca,



New York: Cornell University, Department of Asian Studies, Southeast Asia Program, 1973 (2269 titles)

- *Indonesian newspapers: an international union list* by Raymond Nunn. Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1971 (1000 titles)
- *Indonesian monographs: a catalogue of monograph publications 1945-1968: more than 7000 titles mainly covering the social sciences from Cornell University libraries on microfiche* by R. S. Karni. Zug: Interdocumentation, 1974

The need for a reliable and comprehensive guide, a properly classified and indexed overview of the available search aids for Indonesian materials is obvious. One of the very important bibliographic tools in existence, *Annotated bibliography of bibliographies on Indonesia* (1990) is the culmination of an eight-year work by Herman C. Kemp. The Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV) (Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology) in Leiden, the Netherlands, has endeavoured to compile and publish such a guide, which will ultimately both save the librarians' and researchers' time and reduce the possibility of overlooking valuable information. This is primarily due to the fact that a great number of printed tools for information retrieval in the field of Indonesian studies have been published. So much so that most library users often encounter problems in tracing and using the many bibliographies, catalogues, indexes and abstract journals which provide access to the relevant literature on specific Indonesian subjects.

In 1972 International Book Year in Indonesia did produce one of the most important tools for bibliographic searching. Entitled *Daftar Karya Bibliografi Indonesia* (Indonesia: a Bibli-

ography of Bibliographies) and compiled by J. N. B. Tairas) it listed all bibliographical works published in the country, retrospective as well as current: library catalogues, publishers' and booksellers' catalogues, general and subject bibliographies, indexes of serials and newspapers, plus a number of unpublished bibliographies. In addition, it also indexed bibliographies entirely or partly on Indonesia published abroad, and some important lists appearing in books. To produce an international quality, it used English descriptions in the entries, added a translation of each title, and provided a short annotation in English for each entry. Sources used for compiling this list comprised well-known libraries in Jakarta, such as the National Museum library for retrospective materials, the Idayu Foundation (described below) and the Library of Congress Field Office in Jakarta for current ones, the Centre for Scientific Documentation and Information (PDII), and the National Bibliography Center (KBN).

The Idayu Foundation, a non-profit organization run by publishing magnate Mr Masagung of the Gunung Agung enterprise, published a quarterly *Berita bibliografi* (Bibliography News), registering selected works of a miscellaneous nature. This publication did indeed assist the BNI in its efforts to list all national publications, however trivial. The organization also collected one of the most comprehensive of them all, a collection on paranormal and metaphysical documents, besides other specialities such as newspaper clippings, photographic collection, works on and by first Indonesian president Sukarno, and so on. From time to time, it organised talks and seminars on various topics, some on library matters, adding further insight into the world of bibliography. Unfortunately following the death of its chief, Mr Masagung, in 1990, the Foundation began

to decline, along with the business empire that he had built since the early 1950s.

Of interest is the SEAPRINT project, a bibliographic activity sponsored by the NLDC-SEA Consortium (Consortium of National Libraries and Documentation Centers - Southeast Asia), a subordinate of the CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians). Established in 1979, this consortium received financial assistance from the IDRC (International Development Research Center) of Canada for a period of three years. With its members comprising the national libraries of the then five Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, it had the objective of developing a bibliographic cooperation scheme between its participating countries. Among its several activities, the main undertaking was to compile a selective list of literatures contained in the national bibliographies using the computer and applying the regional communication format, SEAMARC, based on UKMARC. The SEAPRINT, an acronym of Southeast Asian Imprints, was the first and only collective bibliography ever published in the region, but it did not last because of funding problems. However, the project stimulated the need for an automated system to store and retrieve information in libraries, and to compile bibliographies and indexes, commenced by the formulation of national formats, such as INDO-MARC

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Foreign sources which show interest in collecting Indonesian materials are the Library of Congress (LC), the National Library of Aus-

tralia (NLA), and two Dutch institutions: Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB, the Dutch national library) and Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV, the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology). In their overseas operations they assign representative offices in Jakarta to carry out acquisition of printed materials, particularly government publications and other non-commercial documents. Their collections of Indonesian publications are not by any means comprehensive, but in a way they do reflect the complexity of accumulating scattered materials, among the myriad sources and difficulties involved. Nevertheless by their actions these organisations do support the National Library in its never-ending task of tracking down book production in Indonesia.

### **The LC Field Office**

The LC Field Office in Jakarta, established in early 1964, subscribes to all major Indonesian newspapers and magazines. The Office purchases copies of all commercially-published monographs and AV materials of research importance for seventeen research libraries in the United States. It also accumulates through exchange or gift all unrestricted circulation Indonesian government documents. These documents are then listed in the bi-monthly *Accession list*, which covers annually an average of 2,500 monograph and non-book titles, and 300 serial titles. Materials received are catalogued and processed into USMARC format in Indonesia before shipment to the US.

In accordance with a memorandum between the Bibliography and Deposit Division (later resumed by the National Library) and LC, copies of the catalogue cards of the purchased materials are to be handed over to the Nation-

al Library. A large part of the acquired materials is microformatted for preservation purposes, and then deposited in the National Library for use by the public. Later developments in this cooperation aimed at a more efficient way of contributing data after the National Library acquired its library automation system (VTLS) and adopted INDOMARC, the national communication format, in 1991. Instead of supplying catalogue cards, LC provides magnetic tapes containing ASCII records of Indonesian materials held by the LC Asian division to be downloaded to the National Library's database. The implementation of the MARC format makes the process relatively smooth since both USMARC and INDOMARC are basically the same. Up to 1997 about 25,000 records have been transferred, which for the most part belong to the 1950-1980 imprints, and are accessible both through the in-house OPAC and dial-up connection.

#### **National Library of Australia**

A similar cooperation and resource sharing scheme also exists between the National Library of Indonesia and the National Library of Australia (NLA). NLA's office in Jakarta purchases selected Indonesian publications, mainly official publications from the central as well as local governments. An agreement between the two institutions mandated three areas of cooperation: human resources development, preservation activities, and bibliographic cooperation. The last item specifically concerns the transfer of data on Indonesian materials maintained by the NLA to the National Library of Indonesia's database. Unlike LC's magnetic tapes which are physically shipped to the National Library of Indonesia, NLA sends its files of data through

cyberspace by FTP (file transfer protocol). The captured data, in plain ASCII format, undergo minor adjustments to MARC tags before being processed to the VTLS database. Commenced in 1997, the programme is expected to deliver about 20,000 Indonesian titles from the holdings of NLA's Asian Section.

#### **Dutch Cooperation**

There is also international cooperation between the National Library of Indonesia and Dutch institutions: Koninklijke Bibliotheek (the Dutch national library) and Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV, the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology). The KITLV, acting for both institutions, collects and catalogues books and other documents, carries out research, and publishes books and journals on Southeast Asia and Oceania, particularly Indonesia, within the disciplines of language and literature, history, anthropology and other subjects of social sciences. A section of its collection is a duplicate of the former collection of the National Museum library, which once belonged to the Bibliotheek Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. This and other collections of KITLV are accessible both through the catalogue card and in the database of the Dutch library network, PICA (Project Integrated Catalog Automation). An OPAC is accessible via telnet or KITLV's homepage.

To support the cooperation, a representative office for the institution was set up in 1969 under an agreement between the KITLV and the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (LIPI). The Indonesian Agency, as the representative

office is called, buys and catalogues monographs (particularly government documents and research reports) and periodicals published in the Southeast Asian region, mainly in Indonesia. After microfilming these materials, the Agency then sends the hardcopies to the National Library for conservation. The microfilms themselves are shipped to the Netherlands, to the KITLV library in Leiden.

To assist the National Library in its retrospective conversion project of creating a database for the former National Museum library, KITLV plans to use FTP, like the NLA. As mentioned earlier, KITLV has a duplicate collection of the Museum library which records are presently maintained by PICA. The FTP method facilitates online transfer of these records to the National Library, to be eventually uploaded to the VTLS database. Although it is understood that Dutch libraries are implementing their own communication format, PICA has devised a conversion program for linking the format to the international MARC. This should guarantee a sound compatibility with the National Library's INDOMARC. LC also plans to utilise FTP to replace magnetic tape.

## **THE REGIONAL LIBRARIES**

The institutions which play an important role in the accumulation of printed documents in the provinces are the regional libraries, a third level of the library hierarchy. The regional libraries can be regarded as "national" libraries at the provincial level in that they function both as a depository of locally published materials and as a public library as well. Unlike the National Library, their collections are general,

are not restricted to a specific discipline, and are for loan. In addition, regional libraries have the responsibility to provide support and consultation to all types of libraries within the region, i.e. public and school libraries. The in-house automation system, Micro-VTSL, has been implemented in 11 out of 26 regional libraries to maintain a regional database of local materials and to ease data storage and document searching.

Nevertheless regional libraries have to struggle to move forward with this assignment. Although allocated sufficient funding, they lack the necessary qualified manpower, the latent factor that has been haunting the administration all these years. Somehow, with tactful cooperative strategies between all interested parties these libraries have managed to come through the ordeal. Regional libraries extend their service to remote areas by whatever means of transportation at hand, mainly on four-wheeled vehicles. These vehicles vary in size from two-tonne trucks to compact commuter vans, and proceed to predetermined points at fixed intervals. On difficult terrain for travelling, in cramped neighbourhoods, or in narrow alleys, other types of vehicles are used, such as motorcycles, bicycles, and even rafts which serve communities along the rivers of the Kalimantan and Riau hinterlands.

The Regional Union Catalog (KID) helps in locating the whereabouts of a specific document in the participating libraries, facilitating the sharing of information to users. The main publication is still the Regional Bibliography (BD), like its big brother, which lists all printed materials published in the province in connection with the legal deposit act. Issued regularly at six-month or yearly intervals, the BD averages 400 titles per edition, depending on the funds reserved and amount of publications

received. Provinces in the outlying regions, except those in Java, Bali, North Sumatra and South Sulawesi, receive most of the materials from government-related sources, such as local legislative bodies, state universities, research organisations and state-owned enterprises. The reason is that commercial or private publishers seldom exist in these provinces. The main problem, after all, facing the Regional Library in regard to acquisition, is none other than the never-ending task of dealing with government publishers who seems to possess the power to defy the deposit act.

## SUMMARY

National bibliographic control is needed to identify items of printed and recorded materials in all media, and to provide intellectual access to each such item of information. No longer can a single national library afford to cover the bibliographic world. However, with sufficient cooperation and sharing of bibliographical records, national libraries should be able to provide access to the universe of knowledge even if all the information is not located under one roof.

Indonesia hopes to realise the full potential of resource-sharing and cooperation among Indonesian libraries at the national level through a national library system. The use of electronic media, and Internet for that matter, has resulted in the rapid exchange and sharing of records and the avoidance of duplication of cataloguing effort both nationally and internationally. It is high time for Indonesian libraries to consider the possibility of distributing their bibliographic records not only in print or microform, but also by diskettes in an offline manner and online by FTP or even through

email attachments. As methods of communication proliferate and technological developments result in new ways of disseminating information, Indonesian libraries can no longer ignore the so-called new media if they are to remain active in the information field.

The presence of the National Library and its Regional Libraries in 26 provinces, a little late but nevertheless soothing, gives an opportunity for better bibliographic control considering the National Library's role as the main coordinator for all bibliographic activities in the country. The enforcement of the Legal Deposit Act in 1990 also adds another thrust to the effort to list all national publications as comprehensively as possible. But this operation depends entirely on the availability of funds, as well as the vitality of the librarians in convincing the whole community of the significance of libraries in national development and character building.

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