

FACTSHEET

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD – WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR READING INITIATIVES AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Promotion of reading in mother tongue languages

Background

In 2016, NLB launched the National Reading Movement (NRM), a five-year initiative by the National Library Board (NLB) to promote reading in Singapore. It aims to encourage Singapore residents to 'Read More' by setting aside some time to read regularly, 'Read Widely' by going beyond the usual genres and read in mother tongue languages (MTL), and to 'Read Together' with family and friends. NRM places a large emphasis on reading in our MTL through the promotion of MTL programmes and initiatives.

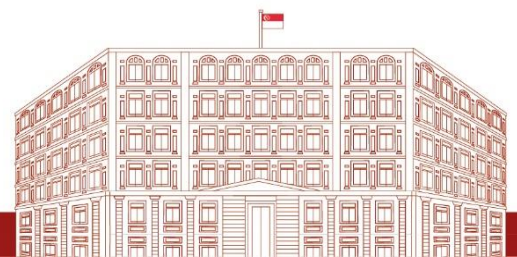
Mother tongue language reading clubs for children and adults

2 NLB has set up reading clubs for all ages in Chinese, Malay and Tamil to encourage Singaporeans to read and learn in MTL. In 2015, NLB piloted four MTL reading clubs for children aged four to 10. There are now 22 volunteer-run reading clubs in Singapore – 10 Chinese, five Malay, and eight Tamil – across various regional and public libraries. Club sessions are held monthly. Please see [Annex A](#) for the list of MTL reading clubs for children.

3 NLB's first and most popular MTL reading club for adults, The Taxi Shifu & Friends Club, conducted in Chinese, was established on 23 July 2005 in Ang Mo Kio Public Library. Currently, this book club sees about over 100 participants per session from all walks of life.

4 To date, NLB has expanded to 15 MTL adult reading clubs, to encourage adults to pursue lifelong learning through reading and learning in MTL with their peers. Please see [Annex B](#) for the list of MTL reading clubs for adults.

5 Aside from reading programmes, NLB has expanded its reading materials to provide new MTL books and eNewspapers at our public libraries. NLB is further expanding its MTL collection by translating 15 English Singapore Literature books into 10 Chinese, 15 Malay and 15 Tamil books to further encourage reading and learning in MTL in 2020. Award winning books and books that are widely borrowed have been selected for this project.



Working with the community

Background

6 NLB hopes to reach out to all Singaporeans through its initiatives and programmes to provide equal reading opportunities. By working with members of the community, NLB further extends its reach to help members who are less advantaged and in places where there may not be a public library in the vicinity.

Equal reading opportunities for everyone

a) *Project Deliver Me*

7 Established in 2009, Project Deliver Me engages the help of volunteers, Taxi Shifu and Friends reading club members and NLB staff, to select and deliver library materials to the homes of homebound library members. The free home delivery service is conducted once every ten weeks, and serves beneficiaries who are physically-challenged and have difficulties accessing the libraries.

8 To date, over 128 beneficiaries have benefited from Project Deliver Me with the help of more than 260 volunteers. The programme has also generated more than 20,000 library loans. Please see [Annex D](#) for a list of Project Deliver Me partners.

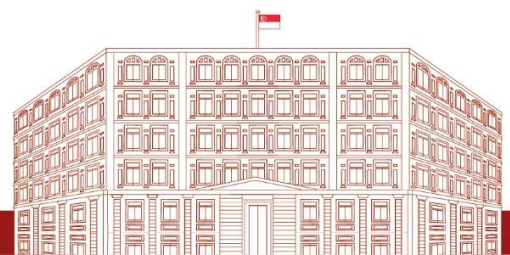
b) *Early Read*

9 Early Read aims to promote reading as an important lifelong habit among children below six years old. Early Read also aims to equip educators with competencies to inculcate reading habits in children and to provide support and guidance to parents who wish to have their children adopt early reading habits. Since the start of the programme in 2013, Early Read has reached out to an average of 410,000 participants and 12,500 children from low to middle-low income families yearly.

10 Early Read provides resources such as the activity toolkit, starter kits, workshops, outreaches and the READ@Community bulk loan service to reach out to preschools, especially children from lower income families. Please see [Annex D](#) for the list of NLB's Early Read partners.

c) *kidsREAD*

11 KidsREAD, a nationwide programme to promote early reading for less privileged children, celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. KidsREAD started off with 9 clubs, 272 children and 73



volunteers; today, it has close to 350 clubs staffed by more than 600 volunteers, benefitting more than 3,300 children. This year, NLB will be introducing its new kidsREAD curriculum where Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, (S.T.E.A.M.) subjects are incorporated into the reading activities. The majority of the activities are crafted to highlight one S.T.E.A.M. subject. The revision of the five-year curriculum will be done in phases until 2021 as the new curriculum sets are released each year.

12 kidsREAD is fully volunteer-run and supported with resources from NLB. kidsREAD has had more than 300 clubs and is supported by more than 1,000 volunteers. Since its launch in 2004, NLB has reached out to over 50,000 children island-wide.

d) *WondeRead*

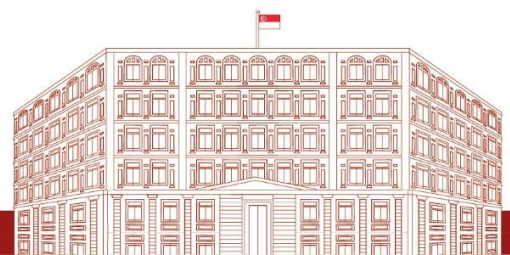
13 First piloted in 2017, WondeRead brings the library closer to those between seven to 17 years old from less-privileged backgrounds by providing reading opportunities through free reading materials. We have worked with 15 organisations and have given out 2,123 preloved books and 650 sponsored Scholastic books since its launch. Please see [Annex D](#) for the list of NLB's WondeRead partners.

Working with the special needs community

14 NLB builds and designs public libraries as places for everyone to come together to read and learn. One area that NLB is looking into is to provide inclusive spaces for people with special needs is through its collaboration with the Autism Resource Centre (ARC).

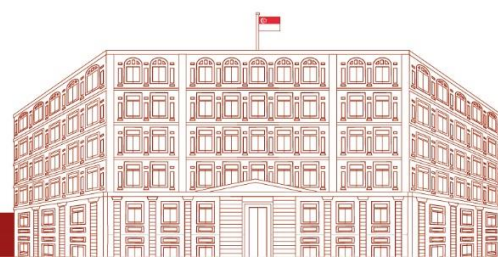
15 NLB signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Autism Resource Centre (ARC) on 25 Nov 2015 to provide employment opportunities for persons with special needs. The satellite digitisation centre has been set up by NLB at Enabling Village to match the strengths of the autistic community to employment opportunities related to the digitisation of materials, providing them a safe and supportive environment for them. NLB provides the equipment while ARC provides the manpower to perform digitisation of heritage materials such as manuscripts, music scores and yearbooks. 14 people with special needs have been employed and their work performance has been positive.

16 Besides digitising heritage materials, in 2018 NLB also employed three people with special needs from ARC in 2018 to shelve and arrange of materials on levels 7 and 8 of the National Library Building. The people with special needs work closely with NLB's staff and are competent in shelving library materials, making them easily accessible for our patrons. Both initiatives have far-reaching positive impact on the future of people with special needs, and gives them greater confidence to integrate into society.



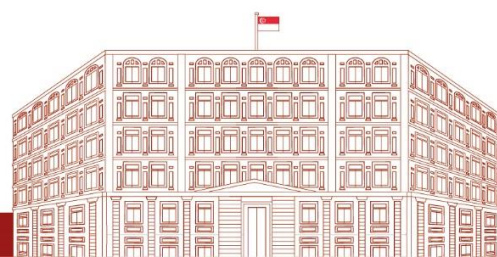
MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE READING CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

| Programme title | Venue & Frequency |
|---|---|
| 小小书迷读书会 (Little Avid Readers) Conducted in Chinese | Woodlands Regional Library (Third Saturday of the month) Jurong Regional Library (First Saturday of the month) Bishan Public Library (Second Saturday of the month) |
| 小书迷读书会 (Junior Avid Readers) Conducted in Chinese | Tampines Regional Library (Second Saturday of the month) Woodlands Regional Library (Third Saturday of the month) Jurong Regional Library (First Saturday of the month) Pasir Ris Public Library (First Saturday of the month) Bishan Public Library (Fourth Saturday of the month) |
| Kelab Membaca Wira Pintar (Smart Heroes Reading Club) Conducted in Malay | Tampines Regional Library (Third Friday of the month) Serangoon Public Library (Fourth Friday of the month) Yishun Public Library (Fourth Saturday of the month) |
| Kelab Membaca Wira Cerdik (Little Smart Heroes Reading Club) Conducted in Malay | Tampines Regional Library (Third Friday of the month) Choa Chu Kang Public Library (Third Saturday of the month) |
| The Book Rangers Conducted in Tamil | Woodlands Regional Library, Jurong Regional Library, Bedok Public Library, Queenstown Public Library, Ang Mo Kio Public Library (Eight sessions a year) |
| The Book Ninjas Conducted in Tamil | Bukit Batok Public Library, Sengkang Public Library, Sembawang Public Library (Eight sessions a year) |



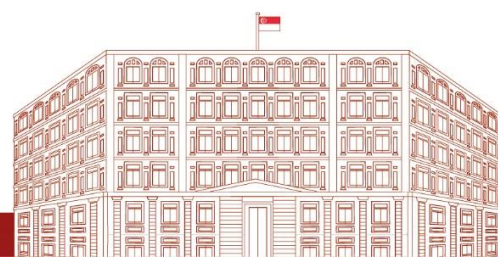
MOTHER TONGUE READING CLUBS FOR ADULTS

| Programme title | Language | Venue & Frequency |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Taxi Shifu & Friends Reading Club | Chinese | Ang Mo Kio Public Library (Once every two months) |
| 3G Reading Club | Chinese | Central Public Library (Once every two months on Saturdays) |
| The SG Writings Reading Club | Chinese | library@chinatown (Monthly) |
| Qing History Society Book Club | Chinese | library@chinatown (Once every two months) |
| Chinese Share Read Club | Chinese | Woodlands Regional Library (First Wednesday of the month) |
| Chinese Seniors' Reading Club | Chinese | Bishan Public Library (Monthly) |
| Interacting@Bukit Panjang | Chinese | Bukit Panjang Public Library (Monthly) |
| Kelab Ilham Pustaka | Malay | Woodlands Regional Library (Monthly) |
| Malay 101 Club | Malay | Woodlands Regional Library (Once every two months) |
| Vaasagar Vattam | Tamil | Ang Mo Kio Public Library (Monthly) |
| Sangappalagai Reading Club | Tamil | NL (Monthly) |
| Vaanga Samaikkalaam Club | Tamil | Sengkang Public Library (Monthly) |
| LISHA Reading Club | Tamil | NL (Monthly) |
| SITFE club | Tamil | library@esplanade (Quarterly) |
| Sol Puthithu Club | Tamil | Woodlands Regional Library (Weekly) |



COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR WONDEREAD AND PROJECT DELIVER ME

| List of partners and organisations | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Early Read | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECDA (Early Childhood Development Agency) • PCF (PAP Community Foundation) • MFS (My First Skool) • IMDA (Infocomm Media Development Authority) • MSF (Ministry of Social and Family Development) • NPTD (National Population and Talent Division) • PA (People's Association) • SKool4Kidz • My World Preschool • E-Bridge Preschool • MOE Kindergartens |
| kidsREAD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Operators (MOE & Private) • Singapore Indian Development Association • Chinese Development Assistance Council • Eurasian Association • Yayasan Mendaki • MOE Primary Schools • People's Association - Resident Committees and Community Centres • Down Syndrome Association • Asian Women Welfare Association • Other volunteer welfare organisations |



| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>WondeRead (Pilot Partners)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDAC Redhill • Beyond Social Service (Jalan Bukit Merah and Henderson) • Family Service Centre Spooner Road • Gan Eng Seng Primary School • Qifa Primary School • Al-Mukminin Mosque • DP Architects • Crystal Transport • Shalom Movers • Ministry of Communications and Information • POSB • Lee Keng Community Centre • Hyflux • Mapletree |
| <p>Project Deliver Me</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ComfortDelgro cabbies from CabbyCare Charity Group • Asian Women Welfare Association • Disabled People's Association • Handicaps Welfare Association • Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore) • Singapore Cheshire Home • Society of the Physically Disabled • Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped |

