Contents

NOTICE!

Articles for the next issue of ForATL News (6:1, June 2008) will be contributed by the **Malaysia/Singapore/Thailand and Indochina region.**

Deadline: 31 May 2008

This issue focuses on the **Indonesia region** of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians

INDONESIAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES OVERVIEW

More than seventy theological seminaries, bible colleges and several theological faculties of Christian universities, which are spread over around 20 provinces in Indonesia, have been founded by church institutions, church synods and the government's religion department. Some of these are members of the Association of Indonesian Theological Seminaries (PERSETIA; www.persetia.org) and the Federation of Theology Evangelical Schools in Indonesia (PASTI). Other than these aforementioned theological seminaries, there are also several theology and philosophy seminaries founded by the Catholic Church, however these are not included in this overview.

Library Conditions in Indonesian Theological Seminaries and Bible Colleges

a. Library Collections

Theological libraries in Indonesia have collections numbering about 1,000 to 60,000 books on general as well as theological subjects. Some of the libraries develop their collection according to their postgraduate programs, and also hold church archives.

b. Library staff

Most theological seminary and bible college libraries only have between 1 to 3 library staff. Many of the head librarians do not have librarianship degrees; the majority graduated from theological seminary or high school and subsequently took short courses in librarianship.

c. Library Automation

Many theological libraries in Eastern Indonesia have automated their library systems. Among these, sixteen theological seminaries are using the New Spektra library automation program to process their books and digital theses collections, and can therefore share these collections with others via the Spektra Virtual Library website (URL: http://svl.petra.ac.id; more details about Spektra on page 2). Some theological libraries in Java have developed their own library automation based on WINISIS and SIPISIS (CDS/ISIS Windows version).

d. Library Associations & Networking

The only theological library assosiation in Indonesia is located in its capital city, Jakarta. Indonesia does not yet have a national theological library association but some libraries from Java are members of the Christian University Libraries network (InCU-VL: http://incuvl.petra.ac.id) and the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians (ForATL: www.foratl.org).

e. Challenges

The main challenges facing Indonesian theological seminary and bible college libraries are the lack of trained professional librarians and insufficient library management training programs for theological librarians.

INDONESIAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES OVERVIEW *(cont. from page 1)*

Future Plans

As a step to overcome the main challenges facing Indonesian theological libraries, and as a conclusion to an informal meeting of Indonesian theological librarians in Seremban, Malaysia in 2006, it was decided that STT Jakarta (Jakarta Theological Seminary) would host a library training program and initiate the formation of a national theological library association in 2008.

The objectives of the program are:
1. To allow collaboration between libraries of Indonesian theological seminaries and churches.
2. To equip theological librarians with leadership, management and technical skills in order to manage library resource and sustain library services in academic settings.
3. To equip theological and church librarians and churches with archives management skills.

The main projects planned are:
1. Library management and technical seminars, workshops and training programs.
2. Forming a theological library association.
3. Publishing a theological library directory and newsletter.
4. Creating an Indonesian theological library website and online theological journal database.
5. Creating a mailing list to discuss various theological library topics.

It is hoped that these projects and the library law of Indonesia will encourage theological libraries to reduce shortcomings and improve library conditions in order to keep up-to-date with academic developments.

Submitted by: **Hilda V. Putong**
Librarian, STT INTIM Makassar, Indonesia
ForATL Indonesia Area Representative

SPEKTRA VIRTUAL LIBRARY

SPEKTRA Virtual Library (SVL) is a network of libraries in Eastern Indonesia**.** Established since 1999 with the name InCU-VL (Indonesia Christian University Virtual Libraries), it has now expanded to include a broader range of members and been renamed SPEKTRA Virtual Library. It is termed 'virtual' because SVL utilizes the Internet both as a collaborative network for its members and also because it provides a 'virtual' library for users worldwide.

Objectives
- To help participating libraries and librarians improve their library management systems to enhance educational resources and research in Indonesia.
- To encourage every institution (and personal users) to share both metadata and full text information with others and to create a learning community in Indonesia.
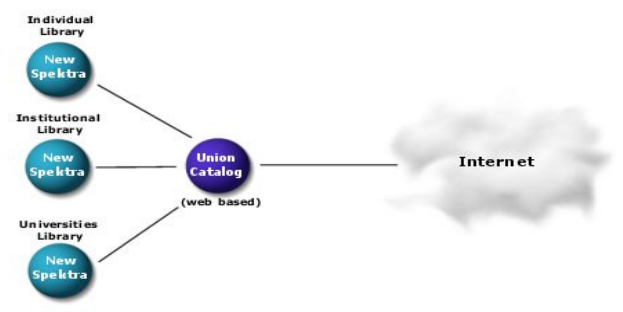
Union Catalog
The Spektra union catalog is an online catalog which allows access to library metadata as well as full text digital collections. It is a collaborative catalog consisting of the following:

- Library Catalog
  Provides hardcopy metadata about books, journals, magazines, audiovisual resources, maps, etc. in each SVL member's collection. The actual physical item is accessed by contacting the respective libraries.

- Digital Catalog
  Provides softcopy full texts including PDF files, images, movies, sounds, etc. Only full text resources marked 'public' can be seen.

There is no obligation for SVL members to send metadata and full text digital collections into the central repository, however, all are urged to do so in the spirit of information-sharing. The Union Catalog is built as a web service to provide information access worldwide. This enables users to gather required information without physical access into every library building. In this way, even remote areas can access journals, research materials and local content of the various institutions via the Internet. The online union catalog can also serve as a secondary means of public access for SVL members due to its function as a central repository.

The Spektra Virtual Library is available at **http://svl.petra.ac.id**   **- by Hilda V. Putong -**

HKBP Theological Seminary Library implements Library Automation System

A Library Automation Application Program is an integrated information system which is used to manage a library efficiently, including managing the library collection and circulation. A library with this computerized system not only lessens the workload of a librarian, but also increases service quality. This is important as the library is the academic information center – the heart of the campus. In this age and time, the use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) is becoming increasingly popular. ICT provides the user with easier access to data, and consequently plays a vital part in life especially in the business world. Today, acquiring information is no longer a difficult task, thanks to the exponential development in communication as well as information technology.

It has been the hope and dream of HKBP Theological Seminary Library since 1978 to have the library automation system implemented. By the grace of God, HKBP Theological Seminary Library has now finally installed the automated computerized system on 4 December 2007.

HKBP Theological Seminary Library has 34,000 books in its collection and data entry has yet to be fully completed.
We are only at the starting point and still have the huge task of entering in the data of all the books, which we hope to complete by the end of this year. For the time being, book searches have to be conducted either via the OPAC or the existing card catalogue. We need all your encouragement, support and prayers. We wish to give our best in providing the best for our users, and hope that they may become effective pastors and serve God's people wherever they are.

Submitted by :
Rev. Wilda Prianty Simanjuntak
Head Librarian
HKBP Theological Seminary Library
Pematangsiantar, Indonesia

Editor's note:

Wilda Simanjuntak married Halasan Parulian Manalu on December 6, 2007. Pictured here is the happy couple. Congratulations!

ForATL Executive Committee Meeting
Seminari Theoloji Malaysia
10-11 October 2007

Who's who (L-R): Hilda Putong (Secretary; Indonesia area representative), Beth Pulanco (Convenor, Philippines area representative), Rita Wesley (India, Myanmar, Pakistan & Sri Lanka area representative), Christabel Wong (Treasurer; Editor; Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam area representative), Tang Sui-Tung (China & Hong Kong area representative)

The ForATL Executive Committee met from 10-11 October 2007 in Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban (STM). The meeting was graciously hosted by STM and sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education. The agenda of the meeting included the following:

1. **ForATL Consultation and Workshop**
   a) Evaluation of 4th Consultation 2006
   b) Planning for 5th Consultation 2009 (see page 4 for more information)

2. **Reports**
   a) Area representatives' reports
   b) Treasurer's report from 21 March 2006 till 31 August 2007

3. **Projects**
   a) Database Project
      - progress of journal index database
      - format for theses database
   b) Directory of Asian Theological Libraries, 3rd ed. (DATL3)
      - revision of questionnaire
      - publication format
   c) ForATL brochure – to be reprinted after the 5th Consultation 2009
   d) ForATL website – new domain (details below)

4. **Business**
   a) Elections for next ForATL Executive Committee and area representatives
   b) Budget

The ForATL Executive Committee wishes all friends and colleagues
A Joyous Christmas and A Blessed New Year 2008!

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1) FORATL ONLINE

- The ForATL **website** has moved to http://www.foratl.org. Yes, we have our own domain name!
- We also have a **blog** now! Check it out at http://forum-theolibrarian.blogspot.com/. You can share your thoughts, ideas, papers, and comments on the blog or send them to Hilda at hildakorpala@yahoo.com.
- Our **mailing list** still remains at foratl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, but conversation has been rather slow. We'd love to hear from you more often!

2) FIFTH FORATL CONSULTATION AND WORKSHOP 2009

Tentative plans have been made for the 5th ForATL Consultation & Workshop in 2009. Although details have yet to be confirmed and finalised, the Executive Committee would like you to know what's been discussed … just so you can plan to be there! We hope that at least 45-55 persons can attend the Consultation. Watch out for more details and updates in the near future.

Date   : 10-14 March 2009 (5 days including travel time)
Venue   : Trinity Theological College, Singapore
Fees   : US$175.00 (S$250.00; subsidies available for official delegates, if necessary)
Theme   : Asian theological librarians moving on and reaching out : professional development and collaboration in the light of emerging technologies

Objectives :
a) Reaching out :
   - To establish links between Asian theological librarians with related bodies in Asia and beyond.
   - To explore possible East-West dialogue and cooperation on projects of mutual benefit.
   - To further strengthen theological librarianship networking and collaboration in Asia.
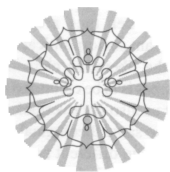b) Moving on :
   - To consolidate resource-sharing projects and plans from the ForATL Consultation 2006.
   - To look at trends and issues in information communications technology (ICT) and its implications on Asian theological librarianship.
   - To prepare Asian theological librarians to manage advances in technology and digital librarianship.

Workshop and discussion topics :

- New technologies & advances in technology
- Transitioning from old to new technologies
- Conversion & management of library resources
- Preparing for library automation
- Print & full-text online journals
- Multimedia & digital documents

- Documentation of Christianity in Asia update
- Possible database collaboration with ATLA
- Linking up with other theological library groups
- ForATL projects
- Library accreditation, funding & training issues
- Election of area representatives and Exco

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ForATL News
Newsletter of the Forum of Asian Theological Librarians