

# Malaysian Library and Information Science Periodicals: A Historical Overview

Tiew Wai Sin\*  
School Resource Centre Coordinator,  
SMK Hulu Kelang, Km 7, Jalan Ulu Kelang,  
68000 Ampang, Selangor DE, Malaysia.  
E-mail : [wstiew@hotmail.com](mailto:wstiew@hotmail.com)

\* MLIS (1998) and B. A. (Hons) History (1985), University of Malaya.  
Presently teaching history at SMK Hulu Kelang, Ampang, Selangor DE.

# Malaysian Library and Information Science Periodicals: A Historical Overview

**ABSTRAK :** Artikel ini cuba menyenaraikan periodikal-periodikal sains perpustakaan dan maklumat yang terawal diterbitkan di Malaysia. Kajian ini mendapati periodikal sains perpustakaan dan maklumat yang pertama diterbitkan di Malaysia ialah *Malayan Library Journal* yang keluaran sulungnya pada bulan Oktober 1966 oleh Persatuan Perpustakaan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu dan Persatuan Perpustakaan Singapura. Antara tahun 1966 hingga dewasa ini sebanyak sepuluh periodikal sains perpustakaan dan maklumat telah diterbitkan oleh persatuan perpustakaan, institusi-institusi pengajian sains perpustakaan dan maklumat dan orang perseorangan. Di kalangan periodikal-periodikal tersebut, ada yang sedang meneruskan penerbitannya, ada yang telah menghentikan penerbitan dan ada yang dorman.

**KATAKUNCI :** Sejarah penerbitan periodikal, periodikal sains perpustakaan dan maklumat Malaysia, periodikal sains perpustakaan dan maklumat, Malaysia

**ABSTRACT :** This article attempts to identify and compile a list of the earliest Malaysian LIS periodicals. The study found that the first professional LIS periodical published in Malaysia is *Malayan Library Journal* issued in October 1960 by the Library Association of the Federation of Malaya and the Library Association of Singapore. On the whole, between 1960 till the present, as many as ten Malaysian LIS periodicals were published by various library-related institutions, association and individual. Some of these publications are dormant, some ceased issuing their periodicals while others are still active coming out with their latest issue.

**KEYWORD :** History of Periodical Publishing, Malaysian Library and Information Science Periodicals, Library and Information Science Periodicals, Malaysia.

## INTRODUCTION

Scholarly periodicals are by no means new on the scene in Malaysia wrote Benjamin C. Stone in 1975. The current scenario of Malaysian scholarly periodicals presently published by various institutions and societies seemed to be increasing from around 57 in 1975 to 214 in 1997 (Lim 1975; Md Sidin 1997). On the other hand, Pang (1996) in his article 'Malaysian scientific journals – current dilemmas and future prospects' revealed the existence of 40 or so scientific periodicals published by scientific societies, universities and research institutions in the various fields of science. However, Tiew (1999) surveyed the existence of some early English scholarly periodicals in pre-independent Malaysia. His study found that the earliest English scholarly periodical is *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* published by J. R. Logan in 1847. The survey also indicated the non-existence of an library and information science periodical in pre-independent Malaysia. Moreover, so far in Malaysia, the history of periodical publishing especially in the field of library and information science has not been studied before. In actual fact, LIS periodical publishing is considered relatively new in this part of the world. Hence, this study is yet another attempt to explore the history of scholarly periodicals publishing in Malaysia.

According to Hedwig Anuar and D. E. K. Wijasuriya (1976) the first subscription library in Malaysia was founded in the island of Penang in 1817. However, before the advent of the Western powers, libraries in the form of monastic and temple collections, royal libraries or private libraries have already existed (Lim, 1974). Monastic libraries, royal libraries and private libraries with small collection of sacred books and other documents owned by the aristocracy, the clergy or the Sultans who constituted the main literate population of the day existed to house their very own collection of reading materials. Hence, the history of library and information science is rather short in this part of the world, less than two thousand years compared to other region in the world.

## **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

The present paper attempts to survey the existence of LIS periodicals emanating from Malaysia as no such efforts were made in the past. Objectives of present paper are two-fold. Firstly, it attempts to identify and compile a list of LIS periodicals published in Malaysia. Secondly, the paper undertakes to give a brief historical overview of these LIS periodicals especially through its publication history. For this study, the term periodical is used to refer to a publication with a distinctive title intended to appear in successive numbers or parts, usually at stated or regular intervals, as a rule for an indefinite time (Thompson, 1973). Apart from that, only scholarly periodicals publishing mostly library and information science articles are taken into consideration whereas others, especially social science and humanities periodicals which published occasionally one or two LIS articles, are excluded, for example *Intellectual Discourse* published by the International Islamic University. Apart from that, newsletters and library bulletins publishing by various established libraries in Malaysia, which contain mostly notes, news, happenings of their libraries, lists of books acquired, lists of periodicals subscribed, lists of these accepted and non-LIS subjects are not covered too. However, certain newsletters or library bulletin, which publishes LIS literature frequently, are included in this study.

## **METHODOLOGY**

To identify the Malaysian LIS periodicals, searches were made of the open public access catalogue of the National Library of Malaysia (telnet 161.142.132.123) and University of Malaya Library (telnet 202.185.96.1). In addition, CD-ROMs versions of *Library & Information Science Abstracts (Lisa)* and *Ulrich's On Disc* were consulted to locate locally published LIS periodicals not available in the holdings of the above libraries. Apart from that, the periodicals were examined individually to observe the following characteristics: editorial history, language of publication, changes in title, visibility and inclusion of abstracts or keywords in article. Next, to verify the accuracy of the information obtained, calls and visits were made to the institutions

responsible for the publication of the respective periodicals for double-checking and to ascertain the current status of the Malaysian LIS periodicals. Finally, from these exercises, a final list of Malaysian LIS periodicals was obtained.

### **MALAYSIAN LIS PERIODICALS: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

To my knowledge, the earliest professional LIS periodical published in Malaysia is the *Malayan Library Journal*, the official organ of the Persatuan Perpustakaan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu (PPPTM) or Library Association of the Federation of Malaya and the Library Association of Singapore. The idea to publish such a periodical was first mooted by Abdul Rashid bin Ismail, Lecturer and Librarian of the Maktab Perguruan Bahasa during the first general meeting of the PPPTM on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1960. He argued for the need of a monthly newsletter to keep members in touch with one another and to promote interest in the work of the PPPTM. However, the President of the PPPTM felt that a professional periodical of high quality should be printed instead of a newsletter and as a result *Malayan Journal Library* was born with Volume 1, Part 1, October 1960. In actual fact, as early as 1955, the Library Association of the Federation of Malaya and the Library Association of Singapore has been publishing the *Malayan Library Group Newsletter*. The first issue of the newsletter being Volume 1, Number 1 published in July, 1955 and the last issue, Volume 3, Number 3, May 1959 as a forum for communication between members. Hence, it can be said that *Malayan Library Journal* is in actual fact a continuation of the joint effort of these two library associations to promote themselves.

The periodical contained professional articles on local library problems, bibliographies and book reviews (Harris, 1967). The joint editors of Volume 1, Part 1, October 1960 were A. G. Parker, who was seconded from the Natural Rubber Producer's Research Association, England to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya as Librarian and W. J. Plumbe, Librarian of the University of Malaya's Library. As of Volume 1, Part 3 April 1961, Plumbe took over the editorship.

However, as of Volume 3, Part 1 October 1962, the editors were Thomas M. Brown, Dennis Gunton and V. Nadasabapathy. Plume, the former editor had left for Zaria, Northern Nigeria to take up his new post as Librarian of the new Ahmadu Bello University. T. Brown, one of the new joint editors was the Librarian of the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur who formerly worked as a Librarian at the University of Chicago High School Library whereas Dennis Gunton, the Library Adviser of the British Council was formerly the Regional Librarian of the Regional Library, Kaduna, Northern Nigeria while V. Nadasabapathy was working as a Librarian at the University of Malaya's Library. However, the editors for Volume 3, Part 3 November 1963 were T. Brown and D. Gunton whereas for Volume 3, Part 4, April 1964 T. Brown was the editor. *Malayan Library Journal* ceased publication after April 1964 to give way to *Perpustakaan Malaysia*. *Perpustakaan Malaysia*, to be published twice a year, is the official periodical of the Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia. *Perpustakaan Malaysia* was given a new volume number, Volume 1, No. 1 issued in June 1965 with Patricia Lim Pui Huen a librarian working in the University of Singapore was the editor.. However in 1966, the journal was published with the name *Perpustakaan* omitting the word "Malaysia" and again a new volume was started. Hence, Volume 1 No. 1 October 1966 was published with Yoke-Lan Wicks as editor who is a librarian of the National Library of Singapore. In the 1968/1969 issue, Volume 3, No.1/2, Abdul Aziz bin Shaik Mydin, a librarian from University of Malaya's Library, took over as editor from Yoke-Lan Wicks. The frequent changes in editorship is the result of the editorship being alternates every two years between members of the Library Association of Malaysia and the Library Association of Singapore. After the 1968/1969 volume, no further issue of the periodical was published. Nevertheless, in April 1972, the periodical reappeared again with a new name, *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia*, and a new volume number. The editor of *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia* until Volume 11, 1983 is Edward Lim Huck Tee, Chief Librarian of the Universiti Sains Malaysia Library since 1969 who also held the post of President, Persatuan Perpustakaan Malaysia between 1978-1980. There are no issues for the years 1984 and 1985. For

Volume 12, 1986, Rosna Taib, Deputy Librarian, University of Technology Malaysia Library, was the editor. After that, members of the editorial board took over the management of the periodical. From its humble beginning until 1989, it has the credit of publishing 14 volumes of its periodical. However, after 1990 the Library Association of Malaysia did not come out with any issue of its periodical. According to the current President of Library Association of Malaysia, Rashidah Begum of Universiti Sains Malaysia Library, the association has plans to continue the publication of its periodical (Rashidah Begum, 1999). The articles contributed to this periodical were written in the Malay language and English. It was noted that from the very start, the periodical contained advertisements to offset some of the publication costs. *Lisa* indexes the periodical until its 1989 volume. The periodical is also listed in an international periodical directory, *Ulrich's On Disc*.

Table 1: List of Malaysian Library and Information Science Periodicals

Rank	Periodical Title	Year Issued
1	<i>Malayan Library Journal</i>	1960
2	<i>Library Industry</i>	1971
3	<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>	1974
4	<i>Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia,</i>	1977
5	<i>Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>	1982
6	<i>Tinta</i>	1984
7	<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>	1986
8	<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>	1988
9	<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>	1989
10	<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>	1996

The next library and information science periodical to be published in Malaysia is *Library Industry*. This periodical is published through the enterprising and bold efforts of an individual by the name of Melville Jayathissa, a qualified librarian with professional qualification, A. L. A (Associate of the Library Association) who received much initial support from his colleagues in the library profession, namely, Alexander Charles and John J. R. Samuel. The debut issue carried

a total of four articles was published in August 1971. According to the first editor, publisher and proprietor of this periodical, the aims of the periodical were two-fold (Jayathissa, 1971). Firstly, to reinforce and extend the efforts of all that promotes and develops the book industry and secondly to act as a stimulant to would-be librarians in training and the handful of recruits who have recently qualified. However, sad to say, this periodical only managed to bring out a total of four issues only between 1971 to 1975 and its appearance was rather irregular. The last issue was Number 4, December 1975 that came out after an absence of three years for Number 3 was published in November 1972. This periodical included advertisements to help out the high cost of publication. In other words, after five years of existence, the periodical has now ceased publication totally. On the whole, in its five-year of existence, all articles published in this periodical were in English contributed by busy librarians and well wishers. *Library Industry* is listed in *Ulrich's On Disc*, an international periodical directory.

The third Malaysian library and information science periodical is *Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah*, published by the School Library Unit, School Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia. This periodical distributed free to Malaysian schools caters more for the Malaysian school libraries personnel for it contained a number of articles about the real scenario of the contemporary school libraries. Moreover, all the articles contributed were written in the Malay language, hence enabling more Malaysian school librarian teachers to understand its articles. *Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah*, to be issued 3 times a year started publishing in May 1974 with Volume I, Number 1. An Editorial Board with Zaimiah Hj Mohd Adam, Deputy Director of School Division as advisor, supervises its publication. The editorial board, which manages the periodical, consists of education officers attached to the School Library Unit, School Division of the Malaysian Ministry of Education. The latest issue of the periodical is Volume 13, Number 1, December 1987 as received by the National Library of Malaysia. The editorial board as of December, 1987 composed of Haji Jumaat Dato' Haji Mohd Noor, Director School Division and Goh Keat Seng,



Deputy Director I, School Division as advisors, Rita Vias, Baharin Mohd Dom, Khalid Abdul Kadir and Jamilah Ibrahim, members of the editorial board. A search made of the online public access catalogue of the National Library of Malaysia indicated that after December 1987, no more current issue was received. It ceased publication because the unit responsible for its publication, the School Library Unit has been transferred to the Educational Media Services Division, Ministry of Education as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1988. Like *Malayan Library Journal* and *Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah*, the periodical also contained advertisements. On the whole, neither *Lisa* nor *Ulrich's On Disc* covers the periodical.

The fourth earliest Malaysian library and information science periodical is *Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia*, which was first issued in the month of May 1977 with Amanah Ahmad, Head, Training Division, National Library of Malaysia and Primalani Mutucumaru Kukanesan, Library Officer, Cataloguing Division, National Library of Malaysia as joint editors. However, as of No. 9, April 1979, the editors were Abdullah Kadir Bacha and Zahra Yaacob whereas No. 12 January 1981, the compilers were Norpishah Md. Noor and Zamrudduh Zainal Abidin. This bulletin serves as a vehicle for the dissemination of information on matters concerning the National Library as well as developments at the international level of interest to the country. It started as a newsletter catering for the dissemination of information to members who are staff of the library. From issue Number 1, May 1977 to Number 12, January 1981, the publication was rather irregular at times one issue per year, bi-monthly, or five issues per year. However, presently it is published twice a year. Beginning from June 1981, the periodical was renamed *Sekitar Perpustakaan, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia* and was given a new number, Number 1, June, 1981. From 1981 onwards, the National Library of Malaysia continued coming out with its periodical and the most current issue is Number 29, 1999. The new chief editor of the periodical as of June 1981 is Mariam Abdul Kadir, Assistant Director, Library Services National Library of Malaysia who is assisted by editors, Halijah Othman and Siti

Mariam Sheikh Omar, both librarians of the National Library of Malaysia. After June 1981, numerous editors and compilers with the help of some assistants edited the bulletin, among them Asma Ahmat, Norlela Nor Mohamad, Rodziah Hashim, Khaziah Ibrahim and Rosnah Md. Salleh (from No. 2, June 1982), Zawiyah Baba, Rosnah Md. Salleh, Dahlia Zainal and Khaziah Ibrahim (from No. 8, December 1985), Dr. Haji Ahmad Bakeri Abu Bakar (from No. 14, 1989) and Norpishah Mohd. Noor (from No. 16, 1991). As of Number 18, 1994, a chief editor and editor was appointed to manage the periodical which has grown in number of pages Amanah Ahmad, Acting Director, Support Service National Library of Malaysia was given the task to become the first chief editor (1994-1997) while Asma Ahmat was the editor of Number 18, 1994. For Number 19 till Number 20, the editor was Shellatay Devadason, Number 21 to Number 22, 1996, the editor was Primalani Kukanesan, Number 23 the editor cum coordinator was Siti Aishah Sheikh Kadir, while Number 24 and Number 25 Carole Ann Goon was the editor. As of Number 26 and Number 27, 1998 Zawiyah Baba took over the post of chief editor, assisted by editor, Norkhayati Hashim. On the other hand, the editor for Number 28 was Ara Talib. However for Number 29, 1999 and Number 30, 2000 Zawiyah Baba remains as chief editor, while the editor for Number 29, 1999 is Nafisah Ahmad whereas the editor for Number 30, 2000 is Saonah Shairi. As of Number 31, 2000 the chief editor is Norpishah Mohd Noor while Saonah Shairi remains the editor. The forthcoming issue is Number 32 to be published in year 2001. The periodical publishes articles written in both English and the Malay language. The periodical is listed in an international periodical directory, *Ulrich's On Disc*.

The next Malaysian library and information science periodical is *Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya*, a brainchild of former chief librarian of the University of Malaya Library, Mrs. Khoo Siew Mun (Shaikha Zakaria, 1993). This free quarterly bulletin is published by the University of Malaya's Library and managed by an Editorial Board comprising of librarians attached to the University of Malaya's Library. The appointment as members of the

Editorial Board is rotated each year among the university librarians and decided by the Library Management comprising the various Head of Divisions of the University of Malaya's Library. The first issue of *Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya* Volume 1, Number 1 was published in March 1982. However, Volume 18, 1999 was published in mid-2000, a delay of about three years. However, it is noted that for the 1998-1999 volumes, only one single issue is published compared to four previously and whether this is going to be the future publication frequency is yet unknown. The next forthcoming issue will be Volume 19, Number 2, 2000. Like *Sekitar Perpustakaan, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia*, the periodical accepts articles written either in the Malay language or English. On the whole, the periodical is regularly indexed by *Lisa* with an average of eight articles per year abstracted (Sen, 1996).

The sixth Malaysian library and information science periodical is *Tinta*, a yearly publication produced by the third year students of the School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology as partial fulfillment of Course JRN 208 (Publication Production). The periodical publishes articles on all aspects of library and information science together with its development. The first issue of *Tinta* is Volume 1, Number 1, 1984 with Abdul Wahab Hamzah as Chief Editor. The chief editor is assisted by an editorial board comprising advisers (lecturer of the School of Library and Information Science, Mara Institutue of Technology) and fellow students of Course JRN 208 who played the roles of sub-editors, business manager, graphic designer, marketing, advertisements and photography. The chief editor's changes practically every issue due to the next incoming batch and new intake of students taking Course JRN 208. Since 1984, students of Course JRN 208 have been publishing *Tinta* annually without fail even though the history of publication frequency is rather irregular at times. However, as of May 1989, the periodical was not given any volume number but instead a continuous number was used, namely No. 6 for May 1989. On the other hand, it was noted that for certain issues, the lecturers of the library school have taken over the publication due to certain unforeseen circumstances, for

example Number 8, May 1991 and Number 12, December 1995. Articles contributed to this student's periodical were originally written in the Malay language but as of Vol. 1, No. 5 May 1988, English articles were published too. The latest issue of *Tinta* is Number 16, April 1999 under the chief editorship of Mohd. Hiezam Hashim. The forthcoming issue will be Number 17, which most probably will be published in year 2001. To relieve the high publication costs, advertisements were included in the periodical. Like *Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah*, the periodical is not covered by *Lisa* nor *Ulrich's On Disc*.

The next Malaysian library and information science periodical is *Jernal Maklumat*, the official periodical published annually by the School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology. The maiden issue Volume 1, 1986 was published in January 1986. However, as of Volume 2, 1987, the periodical assumed the name *Jurnal Maklumat*. The editorial board for the year 1987 comprised Dr. Szarina Abdullah, Head of the School of Library and Information Science, Mara Institute of Technology as the chairperson, Wong Tuck Cheong, a senior lecturer of the same school as editor and Dr. Katni Kamsono Kibat, Zohra Ibrahim and Salmah Salleh as members. Since Volume 2, 1987 there is no further publication of the periodical. The School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology publishes this rather short-lived periodical which contained contributions written in English and the Malay language. This periodical is not covered by either *Lisa* or *Ulrich's On Disc*.

In 1988, the library of Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka issued its very own bulletin, *Mutiara Pustaka : Buletin Perpustakaan DBP*. The bulletin to be published once every 3 months is managed by an editorial board with Chief Librarian, Rohani Rustam as its advisor. The editors of the first issue, Volume 1, Number 1 September 1988 are Abdul Wahab Hamzah and Aizan Mohd. Ali, both librarians of the Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka Library. Coincidentally, it is to be noted that Abdul Wahab Hamzah was the first editor of *Tinta*, a yearly publication produced by the third year

students of the School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology as partial fulfillment of Course JRN 208 (Publication Production). The library continued publishing its bulletin until 1992. Before that, as of Volume 3, Number 1, 1991 bulletin assumed a shorter title, *Mutiara Pustaka*. However, beginning from Volume 4, Number 1, April 1992, the bulletin is published 3 times a year but strangely between the years, 1993 and 1994, no further issue of the bulletin appeared. Only in November 1995, the bulletin resumed publication with Volume 5, Number 1, which was published annually by the Pusat Dokumentasi Melayu, Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka. The most current issue of the bulletin is Volume 9, August 1999, which was edited by Raja Masittah Raja Ariffin, Fatimah Zahrin Mohd. Taib and Ritah Yahaya. The forthcoming issue is Volume 10, 2000. On the whole, articles contributed to this bulletin are written in the Malay language. Neither *Lisa* nor *Ulrich's on Disc* covers the bulletin.

The ninth Malaysian LIS periodical is *Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan*, a newsletter published by the Selangor Public Library Corporation in 1989. This periodical to be published twice a year is distributed free to libraries within the state of Selangor. The first issue is Volume 1, Number 1, June 1989. The periodical is published with chief editor, Mohd. Jamali Salamon who is assisted by an appointed editorial staff consisting of library personnel attached to the Selangor Public Library Corporation in Shah Alam. The advisor of the periodical is Shahaneem Hanoum, Director of the Selangor Public Library Corporation. However, as of Volume 5, Number 1 & 2 June-November 1991, the periodical was published only once a year. The last issue of the periodical is Volume 7, Number 1 & 2 June-December 1993. After that no more current issue of the periodical was published. Articles contributed to this periodical were written mostly in Malay but in the last issue there was one article in English. *Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan* is listed in *Ulrich's On Disc*.

A very recent appearance on the scene of Malaysian library and information science is the *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science* published semi-annually in July and December by the Masters of Library and Information Science Program, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya. This periodical started publishing in July 1996 with Volume 1, Number 1 with Prof. Mashkuri Haji Yaacob, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology as Editor-in-Chief. The Editor-in-chief is assisted by an editorial board comprising lecturers of the Masters of Library and Information Science Program of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaya and other library professionals attached to University of Malaya's Library, Mara Institute of Technology, International Islamic University and the National Library of Malaysia. As of Volume 1, Number 2, December 1996, Prof. B. K. Sen and Zainab Awang Ngah, both lecturers of the Masters of Library and Information Science Program, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaya were given the free hand and responsibility as Executive Editors to oversee the publication of the journal. Apart from that, a group of twelve reviewers has agreed to referee the many articles to be published in the journal. These reviewers coming from both developed and developing countries, namely United States of America, United Kingdom, Finland, Japan, Taiwan, Africa, and Indonesia. However, as of Volume 4, Number 2, December 1999 Assoc. Prof. Zainab Awang Ngah remained the sole Executive Editor for Prof. Sen's has left the country after finishing his teaching contract As of Volume 5, Number 1, 2000 Miss Nor Edzan Nasir joins her as Executive Editor. The periodical invites contributors interested in publishing original articles on all aspects of library and information science. It also aims to provide a forum for communication among library and information professionals, to introduce new concepts, systems and technology. The most current issue of the periodical is Volume 5, Number 2, December 2000. So far, all articles published in the periodical were written in English. As of Vol. 1, No. 2, December 1996, advertisements were included in the periodical. Presently,

*Library & Information Science Abstracts (Lisa)*, *Library Literature* and *Journal of Academic Librarianship* are indexing the periodical.

## DISCUSSIONS

In all, between 1960 until now, there were ten periodicals devoted to the discipline of library and information science in Malaysia. All these Malaysian LIS periodicals are available in the National Library of Malaysia and University of Malaya Library (only *Jernal Maklumat* and *Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan* are not available). However, a check on the OPAC of these libraries indicates no holdings for certain periodicals whereas in actual fact copies of the periodicals are available. This inconsistency could be due to technical errors or human errors.

Table 2: Holdings of Malaysian LIS Periodical Titles

Periodical Title	University of Malaya Library	National Library of Malaysia
<i>Malayan Library Journal</i>	√	√
<i>Library Industry</i>	√	√
<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>	√	√
<i>Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>	√	√
<i>Tinta</i>	√	√
<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>	-	√
<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>	√	√
<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>	-	√
<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>	√	√

For example, in the OPAC of the University of Malaya Library, *Library Industry* and *Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah* were indicated as non-holdings but a check at the open shelves at Z671 LI and Z718 BPS indicates their availability. Similarly, Volume 2, 1987 of *Jurnal Maklumat* is also available under 020.7195 JM MS in the Malaysiana Serial Collection, National Library of Malaysia but the OPAC indicated the library has no holdings of the periodical. Nevertheless, it is to be noted that even though the titles of the above periodicals were available in the holdings of

these libraries, the holdings of these periodicals are not complete or could not be found in the open shelves.

Regarding the changes in title of Malaysian LIS periodicals, of the ten periodicals, four periodicals were published with different titles in the course of their publishing history, namely *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia*, *Jurnal Maklumat*, *Sekitar Perpustakaan*, *Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia* and *Mutiara Pustaka*. *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia* published in 1972 supersedes *Malayan Library Journal* (1960-1964), *Perpustakaan Malaysia* (1965) and *Perpustakaan* (1966-1969). On the other hand, *Jurnal Maklumat* (1987) supersedes *Jurnal Maklumat* (1986) while *Sekitar Perpustakaan*, *Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia* (June 1981) was originally entitled *Sekitar*, *Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia* (1977-January 1981). *Mutiara Pustaka* (from 1991) was formally known as *Mutiara Pustaka : Buletin Perpustakaan DBP* (1988-1990).

Table 3 indicates the publishing frequency of Malaysian LIS periodicals. The publishing frequency of Malaysian LIS periodical varies according to certain development during their publishing history. Hence, the publication frequency is determined by studying the overall publishing history of the individual periodical and not by looking at the publishing frequency indicated in the cover page of the periodical. Seven titles were published rather irregularly, and one each published quarterly, three times a year, and semi-annually. However, sad to say, the publication schedule of these periodicals was rather erratic due to various factors. Some probable reasons may be due to editorial problems, production problems, legal problems and financial and distribution problems (Lim, 1975).



Table 3: Publication Frequency of Malaysian LIS Periodicals

Periodical Title	Frequency
<i>Malayan Library Journal</i>	Irregular
<i>Library Industry</i>	Irregular
<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>	3 times a year
<i>Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia,</i>	Irregular
<i>Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>	Quarterly
<i>Tinta</i>	Irregular
<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>	Irregular
<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>	Irregular
<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>	Irregular
<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>	Semi-annual

Table 4: Malaysian LIS Periodicals: First Issue, Last Issue and Current Status

Periodical Title	First Issue	Last Issue	Current Status
<i>Malayan Library Journal</i>	Vol. 1, Pt 1, October 1960	Vol. 13, 1989	Dormant
<i>Library Industry</i>	No. 1, August 1971	No. 4, December 1975	Ceased
<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>	Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1974	Vol. 13, No. 1, December 1987	Ceased
<i>Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia,</i>	No. 1, May 1977	No. 31, 2000	No.32, 2001
<i>Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>	Vol. 1, no. 1, March 1982	Vol. 19, No. 1 2000	Vol. 19, No. 2 2000
<i>Tinta</i>	Vol. 1, No. 1, 1984	Vol 16, April 1999	Vol. 17, 2000
<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>	Vol. 1, 1986	Vol. 2, 1987	Ceased
<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>	Vol 1, No. 1, September 1988	Vol. 9, August 1999	Vol. 10, June 2000
<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>	Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1989	Vol. 7, No. 1 & 2, June-December 1993	Ceased
<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>	Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1996	Vol. 5, No. 2, December 2000	Vol. 6, No. 1, Jul;y 2000

Table 4 indicates the first issue, last issue and current status of the Malaysian LIS periodicals. It is noticeable that while some are still surviving and continuing to come out with their current issue, others are either dormant or ceased publication. It seems that presently 50% of the library periodicals surveyed are not performing their duties and lagging far behind their publication schedule. Some probably reasons contributing to the current state could be the high cost of publication, lack of contributions or shortage of editorial staff. Hence, it is hoped library professionals will contribute more to maintain and sustain the survival of the present library periodicals in Malaysia.

Table 5: Publishing Institutions of Malaysian LIS Periodicals

Publishing Institutions	Periodical Title
Library Association of the Federation of Malaya	<i>Malayan Library Journal</i>
Melville Jayathissa	<i>Library Industry</i>
School Library Unit	<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>
National Library of Malaysia	<i>Sekitar, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia,</i>
University of Malaya Library	<i>Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>
Third year students of Course JRN 208, School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology	<i>Tinta</i>
School of Library and Information Science, MARA Institute of Technology	<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>
Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka Library	<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>
Selangor Public Library Corporation	<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>
MLIS Program, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya	<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>

As for the language of publication, five of the Malaysian LIS periodicals were published with texts in Malay and English while three have texts in English and two others in the Malay language. Hence, it can be seen that there exists local LIS literature written in the Malay language. This is not surprising, considering the fact that the Malay language has been the medium of instruction up to the university level since 1983. Moreover with articles expressed in Malay would enable its audience and the library workforce to understand it better.

Table 5 depicts the publishing institutions responsible for the publication of Malaysian LIS periodicals. Three LIS periodicals are issued by library schools, and one each by the Library Association of Malaysia, the School Library Unit, School Division, Ministry of Education, the National Library, Selangor Public Library Corporation, University of Malaya Library, Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka Library and an individual. It is not surprising that schools of library and information science are coming out with their own periodicals as these very schools have the expertise and personnel too. Moreover, by having their very own periodical serves as a medium of communication between themselves and outsiders and also to generate and disseminate library and information science research and publication.

Table 6: Abstracts and keywords in Articles

Periodical Title	Abstracts	Keywords
<i>Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia</i>	√	√
<i>Library Industry</i>	-	-
<i>Berita Perpustakaan Sekolah</i>	-	-
<i>Sekitar Perpustakaan, Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia,</i>	√	-
<i>Kekal Abadi, Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya</i>	√	√
<i>Tinta</i>	√	√
<i>Jernal Maklumat</i>	√	-
<i>Mutiara Pustaka ; Buletin Perpustakaan DBP</i>	-	-
<i>Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan</i>	-	-
<i>Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science</i>	√	√

Table 6 depicts the interesting aspect of Malaysian LIS periodicals as to the inclusion of abstracts or keywords as part of their article. Of the ten periodicals, only six provide abstracts or keywords as part of their articles. The rest do not provide abstracts or keywords in their articles at all. It was noticed that two Malaysian LIS periodicals, *Kekal Abadi : Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya* and *Jurnal Maklumat* provide both abstracts in English and Malay as part of their article. This is certainly a good characteristic of a LIS periodical because with English abstracts provided enable foreign indexing and abstracting services to cover them better and faster. The rest of the Malaysian LIS periodicals either provide English abstracts for English articles or Malay abstracts for Malay articles. However, some of the periodicals provide English abstracts for Malay articles and vice versa. Nevertheless, this only covers articles published in the later titles of Malaysian LIS periodicals.

In terms of visibility, out of the ten Malaysian LIS periodicals only four were being indexed and abstracted by *Lisa* while the others were not covered. Malaysian LIS periodicals covered by *Lisa* are *Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science*, *Kekal Abadi*, *Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya*, and *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia*. *Kekal Abadi*, *Berita Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya* was covered from 1987-1997 while *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia* for its 1982, 1988 and 1989 volume only. *Lisa*, on the other hand covers *Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science*, from its inception in 1996. It also has the distinction being the only Malaysian LIS periodical to be covered by three international indexing and abstracting agencies, namely *Lisa*, *Library Literature* and *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Nevertheless, only four LIS periodicals were listed in *Ulrich's On Disc* namely *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia*, *Library Industry*, *Sekitar Perpustakaan*, *Buletin Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia* and *Perutusan RATU Darul Ehsan*. Hence, only *Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia* is covered by both *Lisa* and *Ulrich's*

*On Disc*. However, it is rather surprising that *Tinta*, *Jernal Maklumat*, and *Mutiara Pustaka: Buletin Perpustakaan DBP* are neither covered by *LISA* nor *Ulrich's On Disc*. Hence, publishers of Malaysian LIS periodicals should make their periodicals more visible by identifying major local and international indexing and abstracting services to cover their respective periodicals.

## **CONCLUSION**

The publication of library and information science periodical in Malaysia is not too attractive a venture, as it does not bring in much economic return. The majority of the titles are produced by library schools and libraries institutions. The study found that out of the ten local LIS periodicals only *Malaysian Journal Library and Information Science* has been up to date with its publication schedule. The others are still not catching up on the arrears of publication of their periodicals and do not meet the planned publishing schedule. In actual fact, three have already ceased publication for a number of years while two are trying to revive their publication. Hence, it is can be seen that Malaysian LIS periodicals have a rather high mortality rate comparable to African LIS periodicals (Alemna, 1996). Moreover, an interesting aspect noticed is that out of the ten periodicals, fours are distributed free to interested parties something not found in other periodicals in other countries.

Library and information science periodicals, which contained a wealth of information, are important channels for communicating information to others, especially those working in the information world. Moreover, according to Sen (1996), these periodicals are but mirrors, which reflect the activities of the profession and the professional bodies, themselves. Apart from that, those responsible for the management of the periodicals should identify local and international indexing and abstracting services to cover its publication. Not forgetting, periodicals currently covered by various indexing and abstracting agencies should be clearly noted in its publication to make this fact known its visibility. Finally, credits and words of thanks should be showered to the

publishers, editors and contributors of Malaysian LIS periodicals who have played their roles in making sure that these LIS periodicals are alive and not sink into oblivion.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The author wishes to thank Puan Kiran Kaur of University of Malaya Library for providing certain bibliographical information needed for this study. Thanks are also extended to Vijaya Kandasamy and Kamalan Sugumar of Perpustakaan Raja Tun Uda for their cooperation in obtaining information to facilitate the study. Also to staffs of Rubber Research Institute Library especially Chief Librarian, Puan Fauziah bt Abdul Rahman and Pusat Dokumentasi Melayu, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka for providing access to their libraries' facilities.

### **REFERENCE**

- Alemna, Anaba A. (1996). The Periodical Literature of Library and Information in Africa :1990-1995, *International Information & Library Review*, Vol. 28 : 94.
- From the Editor, (1971). *Library Industry*, No. 1, August : 1.
- Harris, L. J. (comp.) (1967). *Guide to Current Malaysian Serials*. Kuala Lumpur : University of Malaya Library.
- Hedwig Anuar & Wijasuriya, D. E. K. (1976). Libraries in Malaysia. In *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. Vol. 17. New York : Marcel Dekker Inc., 56-67.
- Lim, Huck Tee, Edward. (1974). Libraries in Malaysia before the Coming of the West, *Library History Review*, Vol 1 No 1 : 1-8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1975). "Problems of Publishing Scholarly Journals in Malaysia". In *Scholarly Publishing in South-East Asia*, edited by Beda Lim. Kuala Lumpur : Association of South-East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning : 57-69.
- Lisa*. (1998). [CD-ROM version] New York : Bowker-Saur Ltd.
- Malaysia. National Library. (1991). *Malaysian Periodicals Index 1991 = Indeks Majalah Malaysia 1991*. Kuala Lumpur : National Library.

- Md. Sidin Ahmad Ishak (1997). "Penerbitan Jurnal Ilmiah Malaysia." In *Prosiding MAPIM 1*, edited by Md. Sidin Ahmad Ishak . Kuala Lumpur : University of Malaya Press, 1-26.
- Pang, Tikki (1996). Malaysian Scientific Journals – Current Dilemmas and Future Prospects, *Malaysian Technology Bulletin*, Apr-June : 37-41.
- Persatuan Perpustakaan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu. (1960). *Malayan Library Journal*, Vol 1 Pt 1 : 24.
- Plumbe, W. J.. (1964). Presidential Address. *Malayan Library Journal*, Vol 4 Pt 1 : 149.
- Rashidah, Begum. (1999). *History of Majalah Perpustakaan Malaysia* (e-mail). 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1999.
- Sen, B. K. (1996). "Contribution of Asian LIS Journals towards the Development of LIS Profession in Asia during the Past Decade as Viewed through the Bibliometric lens." In *Libraries in National Development*. Paper presented at the Tenth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians, Kuala Lumpur, 21-5 May, 1996, Vol 1. Kuala Lumpur : CONSAL X, 195-220.
- Shaikha, Zakaria. (1993). "Foreword". *Kekal Abadi Indeks Kumulatif Cumulative Index 1982-1991*. Kuala Lumpur : Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya.
- Stone, Benjamin. (1975). "Scholarly Serial Publications of Academic Institutions and Societies in Malaysia To-day: a Review and Commentary." In *Scholarly Publishing in South-East Asia*, edited by Beda Lim. Kuala Lumpur : Association of South-East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning : 36-42.
- Thompson, Elizabeth H. (1973). *A. L. A. Glossary of Library Terms*. Chicago : American Library Association., 99.
- Tiew, W. S. (1999). Some Scholarly English Periodicals in Pre-independent Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science*, Vol. 4 No. 1 : 27-40.
- Ulrich's On Disc*. (1997). New York: Bowker-Saur Ltd.