

BALIM / MLA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS

24 to 28 July 2023, in
Singapore



Faculty of Arts, MNU
www.mnu.edu.mv



Maldives Library Association
www.infomalias.org

July 2023

Photo credit: Library websites

BALIM / MLA

Professional Development Workshop for Librarians & LIS students

The study tour to advanced libraries aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the latest trends and innovations in library science. Libraries have evolved beyond traditional book repositories and now serve as dynamic hubs for information access, technological advancements, and community engagement. This tour supplemented with workshop sessions will offer participants the opportunity to explore state-of-the-art libraries that have embraced digital technologies, innovative services, and interactive learning spaces.

Objectives

- Explore advanced library concepts and emerging trends in the field.
- Understand the role of libraries in the digital age and their impact on knowledge dissemination.
- Discover innovative technologies and services implemented in modern libraries.
- Gain insights into library management practices, including collection development and user engagement strategies.
- Foster networking opportunities with library professionals, researchers, and fellow participants.



Photo credit: Aminath Riyaz



ASIM ABDUL SATTAR
DEAN OF FACULTY OF ARTS, MNU

Faculty of Arts

The Maldives National University (MNU)

Established in 2009, the Faculty of Arts (FA), MNU has been a leader in developing and training human resources in the country in the areas of humanities and selected areas of social sciences. With its short but rich history of academic excellence, the **Faculty of Arts now offers 20 courses**, ranging from Certificate Level III to doctoral degree.

The Faculty commenced the first long-term in-country course in Library and Information Science (LIS) in 2010 as the **Advanced Certificate in Library & Information Services (ACLIS)** course. This was followed by the **Diploma of Library & Information Services (DLIS)** course in 2012.

The MNU **Bachelor of Arts (Library & Information Management)** (BALIM) course was approved by the Maldives Qualifications Authority in 2021.

BALIM is the first, MQA approved, in-country degree programme in LIS in the Maldives.



Collaboration between FA & MLA



BALIM, Faculty of Arts

- The first batch of Bachelor of Arts (Library & Information Management) that commenced with 26 students are scheduled to complete their studies by end of 2023; and the second batch is scheduled to complete by end of 2024. The third batch of the BALIM course is anticipated to commence in February 2024.
- Fifteen students from the first batch and three students from the second batch are joining in this BALIM/MLA professional development program held in Singapore, with aspirations to gain much needed exposure to advanced libraries.
- While the study tour is not an official part of the BALIM course, the Faculty of Arts has actively encouraged the student initiative.



MLA

 info.malias@gmail.com

- The Maldives Library Association was formed in 1987 and has continuously strived to provide professional development for librarians and to uplift and develop libraries in the Maldives. With the shortage of library professionals in the Maldives, MLA has faced many challenges in its endeavors and yet continues to be a changemaker.
- This professional development program in Singapore is being held with partial sponsorship by MLA and it is a unique opportunity for local librarians.
- Seven librarians are joining this program in Singapore through affiliation to the MLA.

To become a member of MLA, follow the link
<http://shorturl.at/t0l26>

Workshop facilitators

A collaboration between Maldives & Singapore / MNU-FA & MLA

Dr Aminath Riyaz is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, MNU. With expertise in library and information management, she has played a pivotal role in leading the curriculum development teams for the Advanced Certificate, Diploma, and the Bachelor Degree program at MNU. Aminath completed Master of Commerce (Library & Information Management) program at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, and attained a Master of Philosophy and a PhD in Media & Information from Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Driven by her vision of advancing libraries and information management practices in the Maldives, she is dedicated to fostering manpower development through education and mentorship.

Dr Gina de Alwis Jayasuriya was head of the Library at the Singapore Institute of Management from September 1991 to December 2018. She is very passionate about promoting continuing professional development (CPD) and lifelong learning to library professionals. In 2019 she launched a research project on “Capacity building through CPD for LIS professionals in selected Asian countries” which is ongoing. She holds a PhD in Information Studies from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her areas of professional interests include trends and technologies impacting academic libraries in the 21st century; roles and competencies of librarians in the 21st century; user needs and user behaviour in academic libraries; and continuing professional education.

Gina, in collaboration with Aminath, conducted a research study on continuing professional development (CPD) of LIS professionals in the Maldives during 2019 to 2021. Further details of the project and links to the dissemination of the findings can be viewed from <https://librarylearningspace.com/continuing-professional-development-cpd-for-lis-professionals-in-selected-asian-countries/>



DR. AMINATH RIYAZ
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, MNU



**DR. GINA DE ALWIS
JAYASURIYA**
INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER



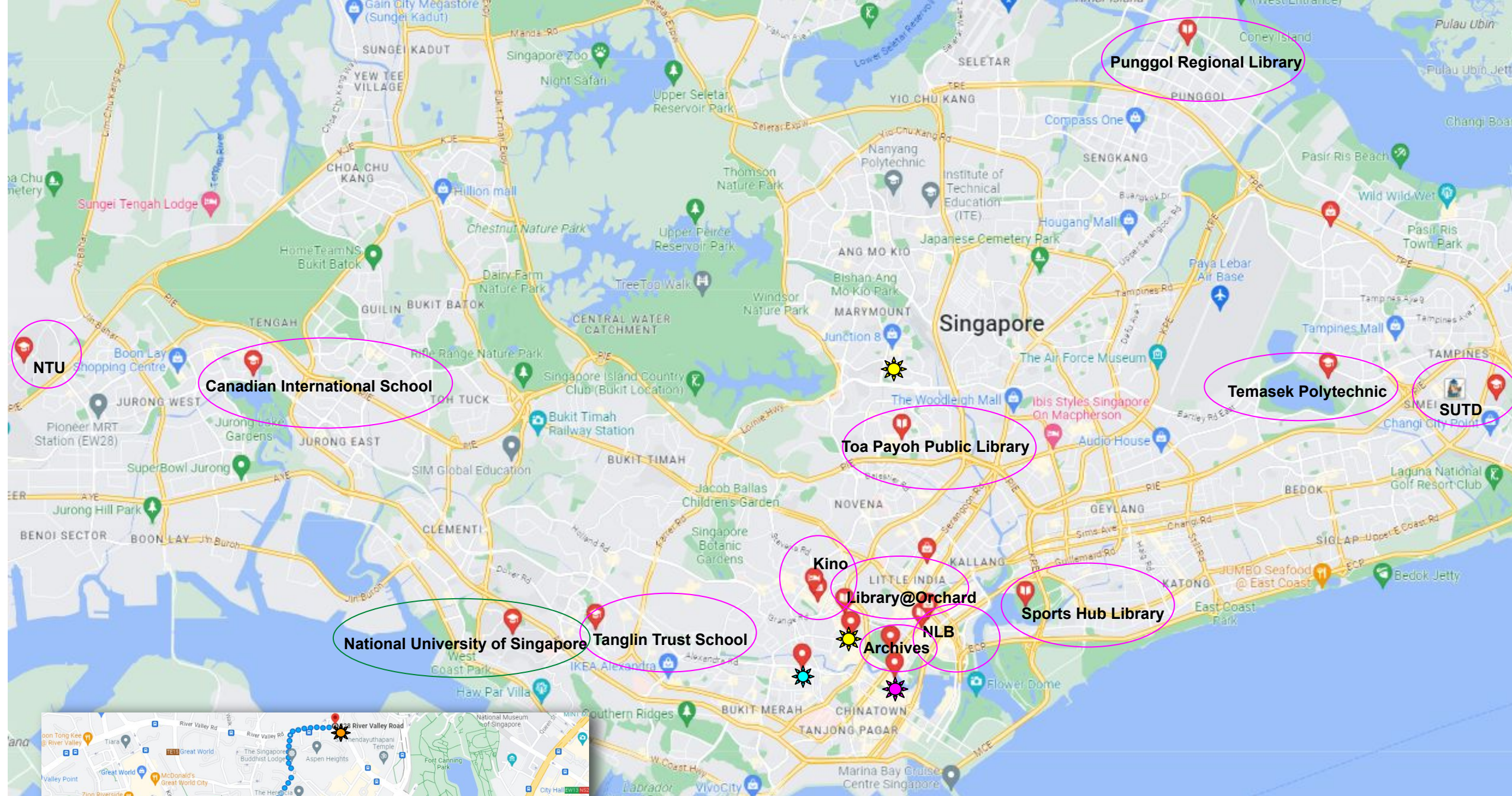
FATHIMATH NASHATH
TRAINING OFFICER, MLA

Fathimath Nashath, currently serving as the Training Officer of MLA, has an extensive history of involvement with the Maldives Library Association. In previous years, she held notable MLA positions including Editor, Advisor, and President. Nashath has played a crucial role in spearheading library development efforts and librarian professional development initiatives. With a wealth of experience, Nashath is one of the longest-serving librarians in the country. Her expertise spans across various library settings, including public library, national library, and academic libraries. Currently, she serves as the Chief Librarian at the Islamic University of Maldives.

SCHEDULE

BALIM/MLA Professional Development Workshop for Librarians, Singapore, 24 to 28 July 2023

Date	Meeting/Tour Location	Address	Notes
Saturday, 22 July 11 am	Toa Payoh Public Library Kinokuniya Bookshop	6 Toa Payoh Central, Singapore 319191 391 Orchard Rd, Takashimaya Shop...	Pre-workshop social events: Guided Tour of public library. Self guided bookshop tour Participants' self-guided exploration
Sunday, 23 July	Day walking tour to catch sights and sounds of Singapore	Suggestions: Gardens by the Bay Marina Bay Sands Light & Water Show	
Monday, 24 July 10 am to 12 noon	National Library Board (NLB) Reference Library	100 Victoria St, Singapore 188064	NLB Corporate briefing (Level 1) 11-12 noon – Tour of NL
Monday, 24 July 2 to 3.15 pm	National Archives of Singapore	1 Canning Rise, Singapore 1798	Corporate briefing & tour
Monday, 24 July 4.15 to 5.30 pm	Library @ Orchard Workshop session 1	277 Orchard Road, Orchard Gateway #03-12 / #04-11, Singapore 238858	Corporate briefing & tour
Tuesday, 25 July 9.30 to 11 am	Canadian International School Lakeside Campus	7 Jurong West Street 41, Singapore 649414	Tour: Early School / Middle School / Senior School Library
Tuesday, 25 July 2 to 4 pm	Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Libraries Workshop session 2	50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798	Briefing (incl. Library Research Services & Institutional Repository) Tour (Lee Wee Nam Central Library Art, Design & Media Library) Library outpost
Wednesday, 26 July 9.30 am to 12 noon	Civica Singapore Sports Hub Library	4 Stadium Walk, Singapore 397697	Presentation on School Libraries by Civica MOE School Library Team Tour of Sports Hub Library
Wednesday, 26 July 2.30 to 4.30 pm	Punggol Regional Library Workshop session 3	1 Punggol Drive, One Punggol #01-12, Singapore 828629	Tour
Thursday, 27 July 9.30 to 11.30am	Singapore University of Technology & Design Library	8 Somapah Road, Singapore 487372	Briefing & tour
Thursday, 27 July 2 to 4 pm	Temasek Polytechnic Library	21 Tampines Avenue 1, Singapore 529757	Briefing & tour
Friday, 28 July 9 am to 12.30 pm	Tanglin Trust School Workshop session 4	95 Portsdown Road, Singapore 139299	Tour Early / Middle / Senior School Libraries



Facilitators ☀️
 River Valley Road
 Junction 8

Scheduled visit locations

1. Toa Payoh Public Library
2. Kinokuniya Main Bookshop
3. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore
4. National Archives of Singapore
5. Library@Orchard
6. Canadian International School (Lakeside Campus)
7. Nanyang International University (NTU) Libraries
8. Sports Hub Library
9. Punggol Regional Library
10. Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)
11. Temasek Polytechnic Library
12. Tanglin Trust School

Group Havelock x 8 ☀️

Louis Kienne Serviced Residences - Havelock

Address: 554 Havelock Road,
 Singapore 169639
 Phone number: (65) 6591 9888
 Emergency number: (65) 6591 9888
 Email: louis-havelock@stayariva.com
 (Booking Ref:
 3395921265 Agoda | 942079297 Booking.Com)

Group HC x 12+2 🌸

Heritage Collection (HC)

HC on Boat Quay (SouthBridge)
 Address: 80 Boat Quay, Singapore 049868
 Phone: DID: +65 6223 7155
 Mobile: +65 9772 3378 /
 (Sales & marketing)
 E-mail: sgenquiry@hericoll.com
 (Booking Ref: 00410 & 00461 (Hericoll.com) |
 2205682179 (booking.com))

Workshop Participants



AJRA RAFEEQ

BALIM 3rd year Student

Librarian, **Billabong International School**. My aspiration to the field is to show our community how important libraries are. I also want to showcase my knowledge in the most efficient way. This trip is important for our professional development as we will learn how people work in other libraries, from which we can gain more experience.



AMINATH NASIHA

BALIM 3rd year Student

Assistant Librarian, **Lh Atoll Education Centre, Hinnavaru**. I have been working at the school library since 2013. This program will be a good chance for myself and all the other participants to become aware of the most current technologies that can be applied to a school library environment. My goal is to learn ways in which I could help the students in my school to become lifelong learners.



AMINATH SHAZINA

BALIM 3rd year Student

Assistant Librarian, **Academy of Dhivehi Language**. I have been working in this special library for 19 years. This study tour will be very useful because it will provide experiential learning, cultural exposure, enhanced social skills, practical application of knowledge, and also personal development.



AMINATH SHUKUMA

BALIM 3rd year Student

Assistant Librarian, **Maafushi School Library**. I started working at Maafushi School in 2007 and my utmost goal is to instill a love for reading and inspire students. I am brimming with anticipation at the prospect of connecting with seasoned librarians and immersing myself in the vibrant library scene of Singapore fills me with excitement. I am confident that the knowledge and insights gained during this tour will empower me to make profound impact on the Maafushi School Library.



FATHIMATH NASHFA

BALIM 3rd year Student

Librarian at the **Maldives National University**. I have been in the field since 2004. This workshop in Singapore will provide me with an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and skills related to library science. It is an opportunity to meet and greet with professionals in the field which would lead to the exposure to different perspectives and to my professional growth and recognition in the field.



FATHIMATH SHAHUNEEZ MANSOOR

BALIM 3rd year Student

Hi, I am Shahuneez. I am a full-time student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Management at MNU. I believe that visiting and interacting with Singapore's highly developed libraries and staff members will immensely enlighten our path to make our own libraries more developed and attuned to the expanding needs of Maldivians



KHALIDHA ALI

BALIM 3rd year Student

Senior Archives Officer, People's Majlis. I started my career as an Assistant Librarian in Foakaidhoo (island) School Library in 2014. I have been working at the **People's Majlis (the Parliament) Archives** since 2021. This event in Singapore is an excellent opportunity to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the field.



MAJIDA ALI

BALIM 3rd year Student

Deputy Librarian, **National Library**. I have been working at the National Library since 2005. Have worked as an Assistant Librarian for 13 years. From 2018 onwards, have been working as a Deputy Librarian. This opportunity is important for me because it will give me new ideas that can help me to implement to enhance the work I do.



MARIYAM SOBEEHA

BALIM 3rd year Student

Deputy Librarian, **National Library**. I have been working at the National Library of the Maldives for the past 6 years. This trip will provide us with a wealth of learning opportunities, exposure to diverse practices, networking prospects, and insight into global library trends.



RISHFA IBRAHIM

BALIM 3rd year Student

Deputy Librarian, **Maldives National University**. I have been working at MNUL since 2008, and have been in this field since 2001. By joining the study tour, I hope to stay updated in current trends and improve my professional competencies and provide valuable services. This is a highly valuable and needed chance for me to grow in my profession.



SALWA KAREEM

BALIM 3rd year Student

Assistant Librarian, **Afeefudheen School (Kulhudhuffushi)**. It has been 4 years since I have been working at this library. This program's primary goal is to become familiar with new systems, organizations, concepts and people. It allows us to be great contributors to the library field. Every librarian, regardless of stage in their career should take advantage of these chances.



SAMEEHA AHMED

BALIM 3rd year Student

Librarian, **Imaduddin School**. I have been working at the School for the past 15 years and I am excited because I got a chance to go on a study tour to Singapore and visit libraries. I love books and learning, so being able to see how libraries work in another country is amazing. I'll be able to explore new ideas and meet other librarians who can teach me new things, and help me grow personally and professionally.



SHAMOONA MOHAMED

BALIM 3rd year Student

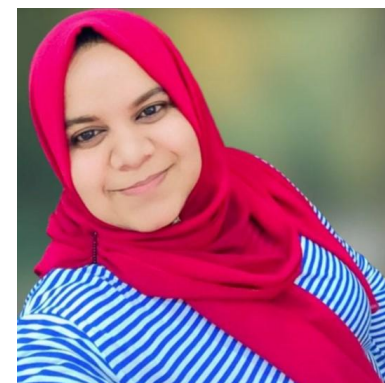
Assistant Librarian, **Majeedhiya School**. I have been interested in libraries since I was in school, as I love reading books. I have been working in Majeedhiya School for the past 18 years. From this workshop, I will learn how Singaporean libraries operate, and therefore, I hope it will improve my personal knowledge and will be useful for my workplace.



THUZUHATH AHMED

BALIM 3rd year Student

Librarian, **Hithadhoo School**, Addu City. I have been working at this library for the past 7 years and have experience in the field for more than 15 years. Visiting other libraries shows the unique approaches they use in utilizing the spaces, shelving systems, seating arrangements and technology integration. By observing these, I can gain fresh perspectives on how to optimize my library to enhance user experience, accessibility and functionality.



ZIHUNA JABIR

BALIM 3rd year Student

Librarian, **Hithadhoo School**, Addu City. It has been 19 years since I started working as a Librarian. This opportunity, in Singapore, will help me to broaden my understanding of library practices and discover new places.

Workshop Participants



DR. AAMAAL ALI

Chief Librarian, the Maldives National University

It has been 2 years since I joined the **Maldives National University Library**, and I have been former School Principal, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, and Minister for Gender and Family. I am looking forward to exploring and experiencing how World Class Libraries of Singapore serve to promote learning and expand readership.



ATHIYYA SHAKEEL

Senior Librarian, Villa College

The Senior Librarian at **Villa College**. I have been working at Villa College for the past 4 years. Prior to that, I worked at MNU for more than 15 years. I would like to learn more about the modern library services provided by Singapore libraries and would also like to apply it to the Villa College library and would also like to share the information and this wonderful experience with my colleagues.



FATHIMATH ANOOSHA

Assistant Librarian, Villa College

Currently working in **Villa College**, I have 10 years of experience in this field. This opportunity will allow me to gain knowledge of how modern libraries are functioning, which will help us to develop our library in the near future.



FATHIMATH SHUMANY SHAMIN

Deputy Librarian, the Maldives National University

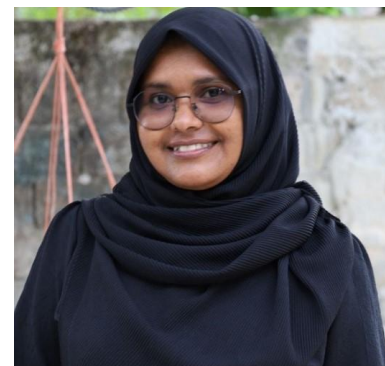
As an enthusiastic member of **MNU Library**, I am eager to join this program, driven by my dedication to knowledge sharing and passion for library advancement. This program holds immense value for my professional development growth, as it offers an opportunity to expand my expertise in the field, learn best practices and connect with fellow librarians.



NIZAMA IBRAHIM

Assistant Librarian, the Maldives National University

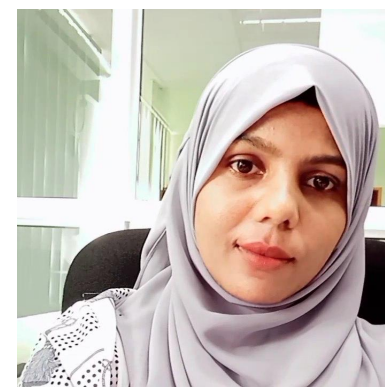
Currently employed in **MNU Library** as an Assistant Librarian, this is my eleventh year in this post. There are several benefits when it comes to embarking on Professional Development training, such as increasing on knowledge about new system and techniques used by others. We will learn to communicate, collaborate and conflict resolution. To see and experience the working of a foreign library will be a great aid for us!



SANFA HASSAN

Assistant Librarian, Maavashu School

I have been working at **Maavashu School** since 2007 and have 16 years of experience. This workshop is very important to me as I believe this will help me to improve my knowledge and build many skills in this profession.

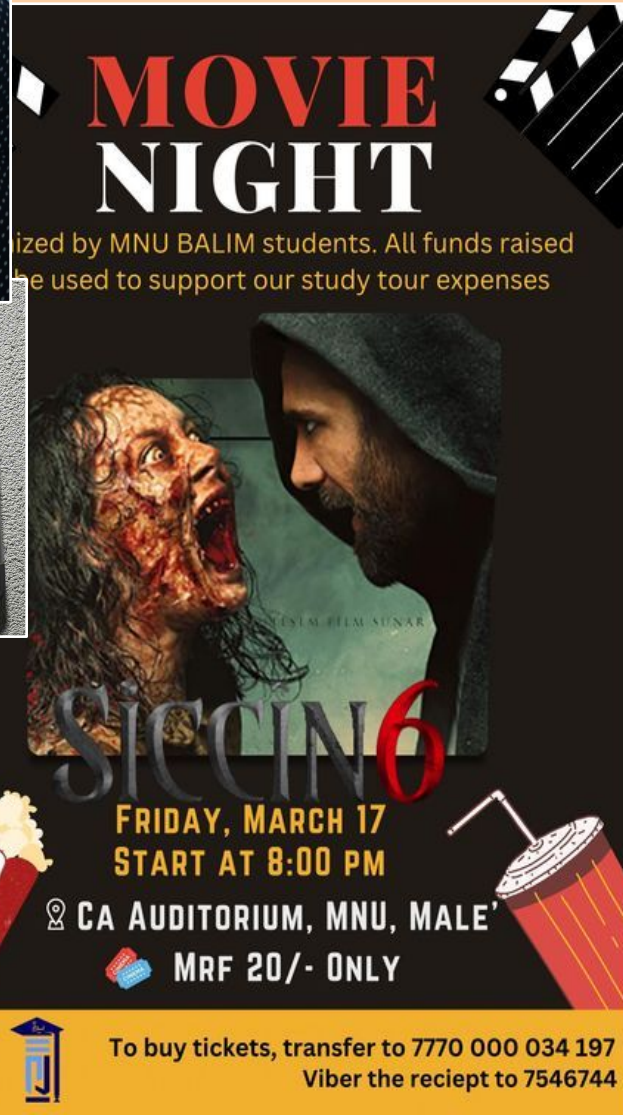
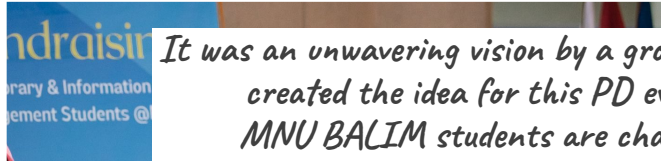


ZAFOORA ZAHIR

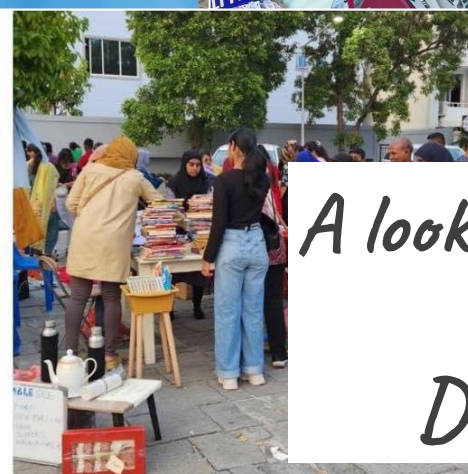
Librarian, the Maldives National University

I joined **MNU Library** in Dec 2008, but I have been working in the library field for 19 years now. Attending this session is of great importance because it marks a turning point in the offering of professional development opportunities for Maldives librarians. It promises to provide access to state-of-the-art libraries in a developed country setting. This workshop offers exposure to world class libraries where a group of librarians can gather to exchange ideas, identify issues, make decisions & explore solutions.

Notes



Join our **JUMBLE SALE** OR

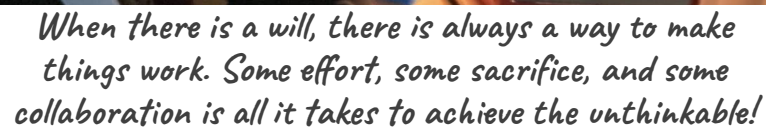


*A look back at the months of planning
and fundraising
December 2022 to April 2023*

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*ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL BE USED FOR BALIM STUDY TOUR

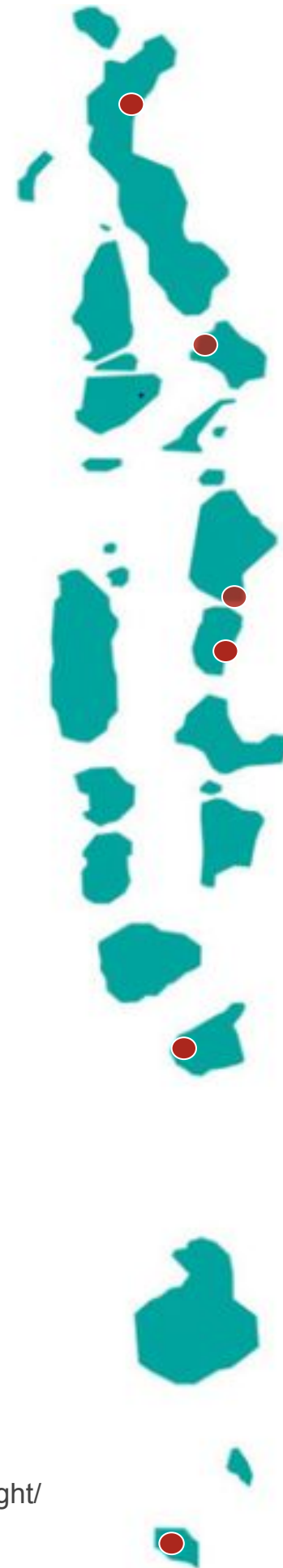




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UL 101	29 JUL	CMBMLE	0720 0815

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UL 101	30 JUL	CMBMLE	0720 0815

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DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

This professional development program in Singapore materialized because of a group of passionate students of BALIM 3rd year (2023), who wanted to match the theoretical knowledge they gain through the BALIM course with real-life experiences of what advanced libraries looks and feels like. The BALIM study tour organizing committee held several fundraising events and raised a total of MVR 63,262.00 thanks to the generosity of the public as well as the MNU community (known and anonymous).

We are immensely thankful for everyone who purchased from our stalls, and/or bought movie tickets for our cause.

We also take this opportunity to thank all the generous, monetary as well as material, donations. We are listing here the known names, with gratitude to the known and the anonymous alike.

Aamaal Ali | Abdul Sattar Abdul Rahman | Adam Muiz | Ahmed Zaki | Aishath Shaheen | Aishath Shenenaz | Adam | Ajra Rafeeq | Aly Shameem | Aminath Ali | Aminath Nasheeda | Aminath Neena | Aminath Riyaz | Asim Abdul Sattar | Arushad Ashraf | Dhondheeni HC, Hithadhoo Campus Wing of MNUSU | Fathimath Nashfa | Hawwa Nabaha Amir | Khaalidaa Ali | Kulsum Ali Rasheed | Mohamed Saifulla Zubair | MNU Student Union | Nasheeda Mohamed | Rishfa Ibrahim | Ruwan Gamage | Shamoona Mohamed | Students' Initiative of Arts, Faculty of Arts Wing of MNUSU | Zainab Sakha | Coca-Cola Company | STO People's Choice | Royal Pearl Shop | Replicate

THANK YOU

For further support, please contact fathimath.nashfa@mnu.edu.mv
(Student leader, BALIM Study Tour Organising Committee)



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff of MNU **Faculty of Arts** for their support and encouragement. Special appreciation goes to Mr. Asim Abdul Sattar, the Dean of FA, for his unwavering support. We also greatly appreciate **MNU marketing team** for their support.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the **Maldives Library Association** for their significant contribution as the first and largest donor to the BALIM student initiative. Through their partnership, more librarians have been able to participate in this professional development event. We also want to acknowledge and thank **Asima madam from Kanni Hotels** for sponsoring the Maafushi student; and **Villa College** and the **Maldives National University (MNU)** for sponsoring two librarians from each institution. A special thanks also to the **High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Singapore** for facilitating local transport logistics.

We are truly grateful for the support and contributions of these entities, as they have played a vital role in the success of this initiative. Their commitment in supporting the professional growth of librarians in the Maldives is greatly appreciated.

We also commend **our classmates and fellow librarians** for their admirable commitment to self-funding their professional development. Their dedication and investment in their own growth truly reflect their passion for the library field. We applaud their efforts and value their contributions to their professional journey.



Bachelor of Arts (Library & Information Management), MNU

The first batch of MNU Bachelor of Arts
(Library & Information Management)
students, with the Course Coordinator and
Dean of the Faculty of Arts

*For information about the BALIM course,
you may write to aminath.riyaz@mnu.edu.mv | +9607221510*

Photo credit: MNU marketing team