

Support existing public libraries

MY wife and I love to read a lot and we would travel all the way from Cheras to borrow books from the public library in Petaling Jaya. Is there any way City Hall can set up more public libraries, like in every constituency including Cheras, apart from the National Library in Jalan Tun Razak?

Tan Lim Beng, Taman Mutiara Barat

Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail: It is refreshing to hear from a city resident of your kind. The locations of libraries in Kuala Lumpur besides the National Library situated along Jalan Tun Razak.

Nowadays, parents would rather buy books, music CDs and movie DVDs for their children than borrow them from a public library. This is despite their only needing to pay a minimal membership fee, and so save hundreds of ringgit on

purchasing the items.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall aims to provide complete, modern and friendly libraries for the benefit of city residents. Today, at a public library, you will find a variety of resources that are printed, digital, audio visual etc that have been compiled, categorised and alphabetised for easy reference of members.

Another public library that you may not be aware of is the Kuala Lumpur Library that is near Merdeka Square. Built by A.C. Norman in the late 19th century, this building used to house the government printers. In the last century, it went through a series of renovations for the purpose of public library facilities but still retains its canopy roof from the 1940s.

This library's unique architecture includes the upper portion of the building that is decorated with semi-circular windows and key-

stones. This building also has a children's library with a good collection of books, audio and video materials including e-books.

Besides these two libraries, City Hall also has 10 branch libraries, of which some are located at Taman Tun Dr. Ismail, Bandar Baru Sentul, Jelatek, Sri Pantai and Setiawangsa, Gombak Setia. These include the branches at the Bandar Tun Razak parliamentary constituency like the Seri Sabah flats, Desa Tun Razak dan Bandar Tun Razak.

In this regard, I would like to suggest that you and your family visit the library branch at the Seri Kota Flats that is close to where you live and would be most convenient. However, if you wish to go into the city and enjoy the pleasant and historic surroundings while you read, then the KL Library would be your best option.

The public libraries and branch-



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es that are currently serving various areas of Kuala Lumpur are meant for all city dwellers. The better service and latest technology found here is capable of meeting the research and information needs of city residents better than ever before.

More importantly, you will find that the reading space provided is comfortable and conducive to inculcate a good reading habit.

I encourage all city residents, especially children and the youth,

to utilise the library facilities, not only as an efficient information and resource centre but also to engage in enjoyable pursuits that will both relax and enrich the mind.

Public libraries do face a lot of challenges but without your constructive feedback, we will not be able to tackle these issues and meet our mission to provide amenities to raise the quality of life of city residents.

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