



Books about Singapore

a select bibliography

BOOKS ABOUT SINGAPORE
a select bibliography

Revised edition

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PREFACE

Books are windows to civilizations. It is through their pages that we understand and appreciate the past and the present. With the growing interest in information on all aspects of Singapore, books relating to Singapore become evermore important to bridge the gap between the desire for knowledge and the access to information. This bibliography hopes to be the link that bridges this gap.

Sources of information on the history, people, politics, law, social issues as well as education, culture and the arts are listed in this bibliography. It is hoped that researchers, students and anyone interested in Singapore would find this a one-stop guide to information materials on Singapore.

Besides listing printed materials, this list also contains audio-visual titles as well as relevant Internet websites in keeping with the growing emphasis on online sources of information.

I wish to thank Dr Albert Lau for graciously agreeing to write the introductory essay. I would also like to thank the team of staff involved in this project : Mrs Anasuya Balamurugan, compiler and Mrs Lily Chow, editor of the English titles; and Ms Koh Lay Tin, compiler and Mrs Foo-Koh Geok Loo, editor of the Chinese titles.

As we step into the next millenium, there is a need for up-to-date information on Singapore. We hope that *Books about Singapore* will act as a springboard for further study and research on Singapore.

R Ramachandran
Director, National Library
National Library Board

INTRODUCTION

The National Library's select bibliography, *Books about Singapore*, has been published since 1962. This latest 1999 edition includes some 323 English titles and 80 Chinese titles. In addition, websites have also been listed to keep in step with the needs of today's Internet savvy readers.

The growing output of books about Singapore is perhaps a recognition of the increasing interest the city-state has attracted since its sudden independence some 34 years ago in 1965. How a small island, devoid of significant natural resources other than a geo-strategic location could have been transformed beyond anything that was envisaged in 1965 is a story worth telling, and writers from serious scholars to popular essayists have sought to analyze and explain why and how Singapore 'made it' and the challenges that went with the management of success.

In 1962, when the first edition of *Books about Singapore* was published, Singapore was still a British colony looking to eventual merger and independence through Malaysia. Partly because of its colonial past as part of British Malaya, and the prospect of reuniting with the Malayan mainland from which it was first separated in 1946, interest in a distinct Singapore historiography was slow to develop. Indeed Singapore was reunited with the Malayan mainland in a larger Malaysia in 1963 and the immediate rationale for a separate orientation faded. In order to 'mark the birth of Malaysia', *Books about Singapore* was subsequently published as *Books about Malaysia* between 1963 and 1965. Singapore's Malaysian interlude, however, did not last and by 1965 the island was on its own, as a separate nation. When publication of the new edition resumed in 1967, it appeared as *Books about Singapore and Malaysia*, reflecting not only the reality of Singapore's separation from Malaysia but perhaps also registering the point that the historiography of the two territories was very much intertwined.

In the present edition, it is history that occupies a special place. Compared to the 1996 edition, where history was listed at the end,

the present work has history at the forefront in the list of specific subject categories. Indeed, during the intervening years from 1996 to 1998, there was renewed interest in history and especially its role in national education. Highlighted by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for the first time in September 1996 and launched in May 1997, National Education (NE) was emphasized as being crucial to the continued success and well-being of Singapore in the 21st century. Knowing Singapore's history, The Singapore Story, as it is more popularly known, is an integral part of NE. The popularizing of history was also taken to the small screen with the nightly telecast in 1997 of a 32-part serial on the Japanese occupation, *The Price of Peace*, over prime-time television. The National Museum also ran an exhibition between October 1997 and July 1998 on the life of Elizabeth Choy, described as a war heroine who was detained and tortured by the Kempeitai (Japanese secret police) for nearly 200 days. A recent biography of Choy is included in the book list.

Another important landmark was the launch of the much publicized, massive month-long NE exhibition, *The Singapore Story: Overcoming the Odds*, in July 1998. The much awaited memoirs of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, *The Singapore Story: memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew*, generated both acclaim and controversy when it was published in September 1998 and climaxed in a series of new publications on certain aspects of Singapore history and politics, including *Lee Kuan Yew: the man and his ideas*, written by three senior *Straits Times* journalists and based on extensive interviews with the Senior Minister; Malanie Chew's *Leaders of Singapore*; the Singapore Heritage Board's, *Singapore Journey into nationhood*; Lee Ting Hui's *The Open United Front: The Communist Struggle in Singapore*; and Albert Lau's *A moment of Anguish: Singapore in Malaysia and the politics of disengagement*. Then there is Gretchen Liu's *In Granite and Chunam: The National Monuments of Singapore*, which tells the story of Singapore's 34 gazetted national monuments.

This interest in history has also spilled over to the Arts scene. The history of Singapore art is highlighted in *Channels & Confluences: A history of Singapore art* by Kwok Kian Chow. Institutional histories include the commemorative *The First general hospital: 175th anniversary 1821-1996*. 1997 marked the 30th anniversary of the introduction of National Service, and Mickey Chiang's *SAF and 30 years of National Service* provides a useful survey of what has become one of Singapore's national institutions.

The present edition is not only about history but also covers a broad spectrum of interests with over 19 subject categories, including Employment, Transport and Communications, Health and the Mass Media. The 1999 edition of *Books about Singapore* provides a useful entry-point for readers who want to have an accessible guide to help them keep abreast of the growing literature on different aspects of Singaporean life. The increasing output of publications is not only a reflection of the steady interest in, and development of, a Singapore-orientated historiography but also an indication, from the publishers' view point, of a market for books about Singapore.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

This edition of *Books about Singapore*, lists both English and Chinese books and audio-visual materials held by the National Library Board, Singapore. The list also includes related websites.

The bibliography includes older standard works as well as new works published since the previous 1996 edition and received in the National Library up to December 1998. New titles have been added, as much as possible, to reflect the latest developments in the specific areas of interest.

The entries are arranged alphabetically by title, followed by the author's name, place of publication, publisher's name and then the year of publication. The bracketed call number at the end of each entry indicates where the title is to be found in the National Library Board system. Lastly, the alphabetical author/title index at the end of the bibliography will help readers in searching for specific works by certain author or title of books in this bibliography.

GENERAL

CATALOGUE of government department/statutory board publications

Singapore : Singapore Resource Library, National Library Board, 1997.
(015.5957 CDGSPB)

Lists publications under each Ministry and its respective Departments and Statutory Boards. Addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers of the Ministries/Departments and Statutory Boards are provided.

GUIDE to map collections in Singapore : with a bibliographical essay on official publications relating to cartography in Singapore and Malaysia

Nicholas Martland

Singapore : Reference Services Division, National Library, 1987.
(025.176095957 MAR)

Identifies major holdings of Singapore and Malaysian maps in seventeen libraries in Singapore.

NATIONAL Library Board (NL.Line) [Website]

National Library Board

<http://www.lib.gov.sg>

The website provides up-to-date information on the National Library Board and its network of libraries. Availability of books and other materials listed in this bibliography can be searched at this website.

LIBRARY 2000 : investing in a learning nation : report of the Library 2000 Review Committee

Singapore. Library 2000 Review Committee.

Singapore : SNP Publishers, 1994.

(027.095957 SIN)

A report reviewing library services in Singapore with recommendations on how libraries can develop to serve Singaporeans better in the years ahead.

SINGAPORE

Singapore : Ministry of Information and the Arts, 1971-. Annual.
(959.57 SIN)

The official Singapore yearbook. First published as "Annual Report, Singapore, 1946".

SINGAPORE book world

Singapore : National Book Development Council of Singapore,
1970 - . Biennial.

(070.5095957 SBW)

The publication of the National Book Development Council, it covers various activities in the fields of publishing, printing, bookselling, writing and reading in Singapore.

SINGAPORE : facts and pictures

Singapore : Ministry of Information and the Arts, 1969-. Annual.
(959.57 SMCFFS)

A handy reference book that provides current information and statistics on Singapore.

SINGAPORE Infomap [Website]

Ministry of Information and the Arts/National Computer Board
[http: //www.sg](http://www.sg)

The national website serves as a first-stop information guide to Singapore. Provides a wealth of information on Singapore including the arts and entertainment, food, business, shopping, sightseeing and many more. Also contains numerous links to Singapore websites.

SINGAPORE national bibliography [CD-ROM]

Singapore : National Library, 1993-. Semiannual, each update is cumulative and replaces previous disk.

(CF 015.5957 SNB)

A classified list with an alphabetical author-title-subject index of books printed and published in Singapore.

SINGAPORE periodicals index [CD-ROM]

Singapore : National Library Board, 1996-. Annual, each update is cumulative and replaces previous disk.

(CF 016.05 SPI)

An index of articles of major English, Chinese and Malay periodicals published in Singapore. Indexed and arranged in an alphabetical sequence under subject headings.

SINGAPORE street directory 1998/1999. [19th ed.]

Singapore : Published by SNP Corp. under the Licence of the Ministry of Law, 1998.

(959.57 SIN)

Besides roads, it also indicates MRT stations and routes, taxi stands, Central Business District limits, gantry points and Area Licensing booths. All maps are in full colour.

SINGAPORE : the year in review

Singapore : Times Academic Press for the Institute of Policy Studies, 1991-. Annual.

(959.5705 SIN)

An overview of significant events on domestic politics, the economy, education and external relations in 1997.

Pages have been omitted from this book preview.



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