

# library@chinatown

Fast Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Date: 31 January 2013</li> <li>• Floor Area: 1,000 square metres</li> <li>• Collection Size: 44,000</li> <li>• Target Community: Arts and cultural enthusiasts and the general public who are keen to learn more about Chinese arts and culture</li> </ul>
Key Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chinese Arts and Culture</b>  <p>As NLB's first themed library on Chinese arts and culture, the programmes at library@chinatown are centred around the four trademark manifestations of arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Qín 琴: Music [Performance Arts]</li> <li>– Qí 棋: Chess [Strategy]</li> <li>– Shū 书: Calligraphy [Literary Arts]</li> <li>– Huà 画: Painting [Visual and Fine Arts]</li> </ul> <p>Beyond these four trademarks, topics relating to History, Philosophy, Health/Well-being and Traditional Crafts are also covered.</p> </li> <li>• <b>By the Community, For the Community</b>  <p>library@chinatown is the first volunteer-run library where daily library operations are conducted by trained volunteers from the community. The library's volunteer staff are dressed in library@chinatown volunteer T-shirts and their primary duties are clearance of materials from the bookdrop, book-shelving and assisting library patrons.</p> </li> </ul>
Collection Highlights	<p>The library started with the collection size of 30,000 items (books and audio-visual materials) on Chinese arts and culture. These were selected in consultation with representatives from the Chinese literati community. Key categories in the collection include Arts, Architecture, Philosophy, Language, Cookery, Health and Fitness, Sports and Recreation, Literature, Folklores, Customs, History and Travel.</p> <p>65% of the collection is in Chinese, with 30% in English and the remaining in Malay and Tamil. About 15% of the collection is catered to children. The collection is complemented by reading and engagement programmes.</p>
Services and Facilities	<p><b>a) Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating capacity: 146</li> <li>• Newspaper Reading Area – print and e-newspapers</li> <li>• Bookdrop (10.00am – 10.00pm)</li> <li>• Cybrarian kiosk</li> <li>• Programme Zone</li> <li>• Programme and Engagement Area - Candy Culture by Rediffusion</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>b) Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performances and activities</li><li>• Talks and workshops</li><li>• Exhibitions and displays</li></ul> <p><b>Service Exclusions</b></p> <p>The library is integrated with NLB's library system, which enables books borrowed from the library to be returned at any of the other 24 public libraries and vice versa. However, due to its small collection, materials at library@chinatown are not available for reservation. Readers who wish to access this collection will have to make a trip to the library and borrow the materials in person.</p> <p>The library also does not feature a staff counter and is not a pick-up point for reservations from other public libraries.</p>
Library History	library@chinatown was officially opened on 31 January 2013 by Mr Lawrence Wong, then Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information. Located on the 4 <sup>th</sup> floor of Chinatown Point shopping mall, it is NLB's first library run by the community, for the community.
Interesting Facts	<p>Apart from its volunteer staff, the library also collaborates with the community through other ways, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Through Philanthropy and Sponsorships:</b> Chinatown Point Mall owner, CP1 Pte Ltd, sponsored the development cost of the library (including IT infrastructure and start-up collection)</li></ul> <p>Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple sponsors the library's annual operating costs, as well as collection and programmes' development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Through Partnerships and Engagement:</b> To promote greater appreciation of Chinese arts and culture and engagement of community partners, the library@chinatown works closely with Rediffusion to present regular activities and programmes at a designated programme and engagement zone called Candy Culture (文化糖).</li></ul>

*Last updated on 1 September 2014*