

Ix's Library Facts

Ang Mo Kio Public Library



Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Psst, this information may be useful for the Book Bugs monthly quizzes!

Did You Know?

Ang Mo Kio was home to many farms and rubber trees before the 1970s. Today, it is an exciting town with beloved places like Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and AMK Hub. It was the first town to try out the town council concept, which lets residents have a greater say in taking care of their housing estates. This system is now in place throughout Singapore! It is also being transformed into a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly town.

Ang Mo Kio Public Library opened in 1985 and was one of the first libraries to provide multimedia stations with computers that library patrons could use!

The Stamp Design



Kroos is surrounded by tomatoes, taking reference from the Hokkien term *ang mo kio* that can be translated to "tomatoes" in English.

Ix's Library Facts

Bedok Public Library



APPROVED



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

The name Bedok could refer to the Malay word for drum "bedoh" which was used at mosques to call out prayer time and important announcements. It could also refer to small fishing boats known as "biduk", as the area was a fishing village before the 1960s. Today, Bedok is a lively town where you can visit places such as East Coast Park, Bedok Reservoir Park, Bedok Mall, or Heartbeat@Bedok.

Located within Heartbeat@Bedok, this nature-themed library features a huge watering can, pillars that resemble trees, as well as cute animal bookshelves.

The Stamp Design



Friendly Lulu juggles bottles of NEWater, which is clean water made using advanced technology. One of the first two NEWater plants was built in Bedok.

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Ix's Library Facts

Bishan Public Library



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Collection of National Library, Singapore



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Did You Know?

Bishan is a town in central Singapore. It was known as Kwong Wai Siew Peck San Theng before the 1980s. "Peck San Theng" means "pavilions on the jade hills", referencing the 10 pavilions that dotted a former sprawling cemetery where loved ones were buried. Today, Bishan has many modern attractions such as Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Bishan Sports Complex, and Junction 8!

Bishan Public Library, which opened in 2006, has 16 pods that stick out of the building, making it look like a tree house! These pods are quiet spaces for you to read and reflect.

The Stamp Design



Bishan Public Library

Do you know where Justice is standing? He is deeply engrossed in a book in one of the special pods at Bishan Public Library.

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Public Libraries
Singapore

Ix's Library Facts

Bukit Panjang Public Library



National Library Board

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Did You Know?

Bukit Panjang is a town in the northwest of Singapore. Before the 1980s, it had farms, factories, and even a granite quarry. Today, Bukit Panjang is a beautiful town with lots of green spaces such as Zhenghua Nature Park and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. It also features modern shopping amenities like Hillion Mall and Bukit Panjang Plaza.

Bukit Panjang Public Library is located inside Bukit Panjang Plaza. Its unique designs include the Book Mountains shelving concept and colourful ribbons on the floor which help people find their way around.

The Stamp Design

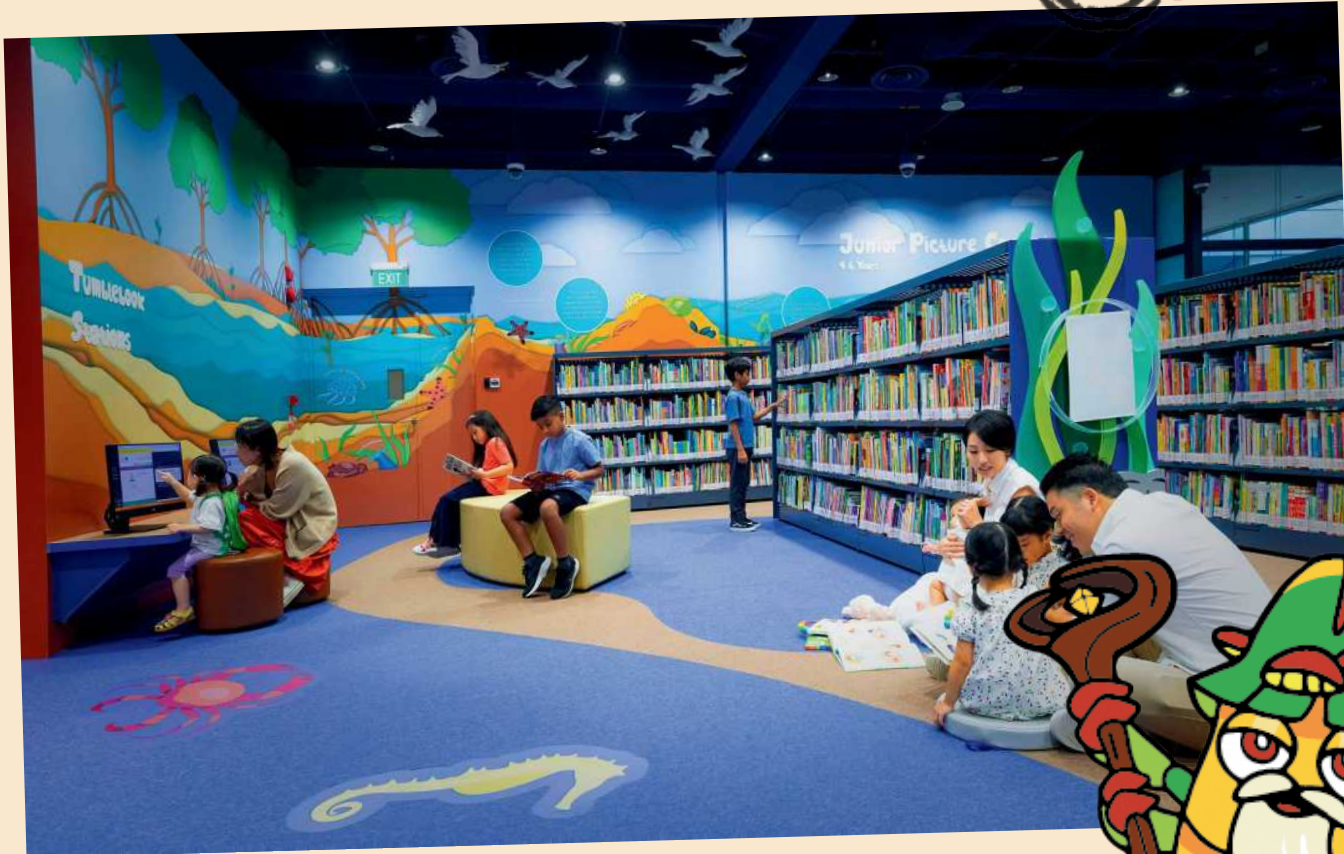


Maya gazes intently at the stars over Bukit Panjang, which means "long stretches of hills" in Malay.

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Ix's Library Facts

Central Public Library



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

The Bras Basah Bugis district, once a place where Indonesian sailors and traders settled, later became a bustling area of shops, markets, and entertainment venues. Today, it is home to many museums and cultural institutions like Singapore Art Museum, National Museum of Singapore, and Raffles Hotel Singapore. This district features a unique blend of old and new architecture!

The Central Public Library located in the National Library Building's basement features unique sections like the Children's Biodiversity Library by S.E.A. Aquarium and the Singapore Alcove. These areas highlight important themes of sustainability and local culture, offering visitors insights into marine ecosystems and Singapore's heritage.

The Stamp Design



Lyly shops for souvenirs while exploring the colourful shophouses around Haji Lane in Bugis.

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Ix's Library Facts

Cheng San Public Library



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National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Located in northeastern Singapore, Hougang got its name from the Hokkien and Teochew word "au-kang", which means "river end". Before the late 1970s, it was mostly forests and pig farms. Modern Hougang now includes leisure areas such as Punggol Park and Hougang Mall, but some might remember it for being the first estate to have a bowling centre.

Located within Hougang Mall, Cheng San Public Library is designed to feel like an art gallery, fostering art appreciation through its display of works by local artists. Its children's section is garden-themed and features giant mushrooms!

The Stamp Design



One of Hougang's villages was once a popular location for Chinese opera shows. This is where Qian Mian shows off his slick mask-changing moves.

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Ix's Library Facts

Choa Chu Kang Public Library



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National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Located in northwestern Singapore, Choa Chu Kang got its name from "kang chu" in Teochew, which means "lord of the river". It used to have villages and farms in the 1970s and is now a vibrant town with many modern facilities and amenities, like Lot One Shoppers' Mall and Choa Chu Kang Park.

Choa Chu Kang Public Library opened in 1997, with nature-themed decor inspired by nearby farms. It has been recognised as the "Best Green Library of 2022" by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

The Stamp Design



Wise Terra has plants sprouting from her back, inspired by the neighbouring farming industries.

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Ix's Library Facts

Clementi Public Library



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National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Clementi is named after Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, who governed Singapore from 1887 to 1893. What used to be mostly swamps, villages, and farms is now a thriving housing estate with a variety of amenities that include schools, recreational facilities, as well as a combined market and food centre.

Clementi Public Library opened in 2011 and is located inside Clementi Mall. This makes it convenient for those who want to pop by to borrow books after shopping or eating! It has an interactive wall that encourages learners to ask questions.

The Stamp Design



Ride together with Sisik on this double-decker bus to Clementi Mall, which is linked to the Integrated Transport Hub that serves Clementi residents.

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Public Libraries
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Ix's Library Facts

Geylang East Public Library



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Geylang may have gotten its name from "kilang", which means "press", "mill", or "factory" in Malay. Once home to villages and plantations, it is now a lively area known for its Malay cultural heritage. Popular places include the bustling Geylang Serai Market and Food Centre, as well as Joo Chiat Complex, which sells traditional Malay costumes, carpets, and jewellery.

Geylang East Public Library opened in 1988 and was refurbished in 2012 with a nature-inspired design. It is the first public library in Singapore to have a special thematic collection on culinary and food-related literature.

The Stamp Design



Behind Jujur is an attap house, inspired by the traditional Malay kampung (village) found in Geylang in the past.

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Public Libraries
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Ix's Library Facts

Jurong Regional Library



Collection of National Library, Singapore



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Did You Know?

Jurong's name may have originated from the Malay word for shark, "jerung". Since the 1960s, its mangrove swamps have been replaced by factories, homes, schools, and markets. Today, Jurong is home to the beautiful Chinese and Japanese Gardens, Science Centre Singapore, and big shopping centres like JEM, Westgate, and IMM Outlet Mall.

Opened in 1988, Jurong Regional Library is one of the largest public libraries in Singapore, with special reading spots customised for young readers and teens. It is the first public library in Singapore with a skylight incorporated into its structure.

The Stamp Design



Chonsen hovers calmly in front of the iconic twin pagodas at Chinese Garden, a peaceful, scenic attraction in the Jurong Lake District.

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Ix's Library Facts

Jurong West Public Library



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Jurong West and Boon Lay were once called Peng Kang, a rural place of swamps, jungles, and plantations. From the 1960s, it transformed into an industrial and residential estate with markets, hawker centres, and leisure attractions. The Mass Rapid Transit station and housing estate were named after Chew Boon Lay, an early pioneer of Singapore.

In 1996, Jurong West Public Library opened in Jurong Point as National Library Board's first shopping mall library. It relocated to Frontier Community Centre in 2006, with library entrances on each floor. For manga fans out there, this library offers a distinct collection!

The Stamp Design



Snowflake is on the big screen! Have you heard of the former Jurong Drive-in, Singapore's only open-air cinema where people watched movies from their cars?

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Ix's Library Facts

library@harbourfront



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National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Bukit Merah means "red hill" in Malay, a reference to the red soil once found in the area. Back then, the grounds were filled with pepper and gambier plantations. This huge plot of land includes Tiong Bahru and Telok Blangah, with several prominent landmarks like Labrador Park and Keppel Harbour.

Located in VivoCity, library@harbourfront offers a stunning view of Sentosa. This sight can be admired from yellow deck chairs that are a part of the library's coastal design theme. The children's section has an immersive room where stories come to life with projections and sounds.

The Stamp Design



Vandira brandishes newfound treasure on top of a hill inspired by Mount Faber, overlooking Singapore's southwestern coast.

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Public Libraries
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Ix's Library Facts

Pasir Ris Public Library



National Library Board



Psst, this information may be useful for the Book Bugs monthly quizzes!

Did You Know?

Pasir Ris is thought to be named after the fine sand along its beach, with "pasir" meaning "sand" and "hiris" meaning "to shred" in Malay. This coastal town was once covered with forests, mangroves, plantations, villages, and even bungalows built as holiday homes with bathing *pagar-pagar* ("gates" in Malay) that formed fenced swimming areas in the sea. Pasir Ris remains a popular retreat for beachside picnics, barbecues, and chalet gatherings.

Pasir Ris Public Library, found in White Sands Shopping Mall, is designed around recreation. The Teens' Mezzanine area features a doodle wall and casual seating which allows visitors to relax while reading.

The Stamp Design



The adorable Elidi flock to Pasir Ris's sandy beaches, which continue to be a place of leisure today for Singaporeans of all ages.

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Ix's Library Facts

Punggol Regional Library



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National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Once a rural fishing village with farms and rubber plantations, Punggol was likely given its name from the Malay word for hurling sticks at tree branches to get fruits down to the ground. Located far away from the city, Punggol even had its own zoo, featuring William Lawrence Soma Basapa's private collection of animals. The zoo opened in 1928 but was forced to close in 1942 due to the war.

Punggol is a vibrant waterfront town with lots of recreational places to visit, such as Punggol Regional Library. This five-storey accessible library has a special World and Us Zone, featuring curated children's books from all over the world!

The Stamp Design



Filbert rows a boat, paying homage to Punggol as a popular spot known for its water sports and waterfront seafood restaurants.

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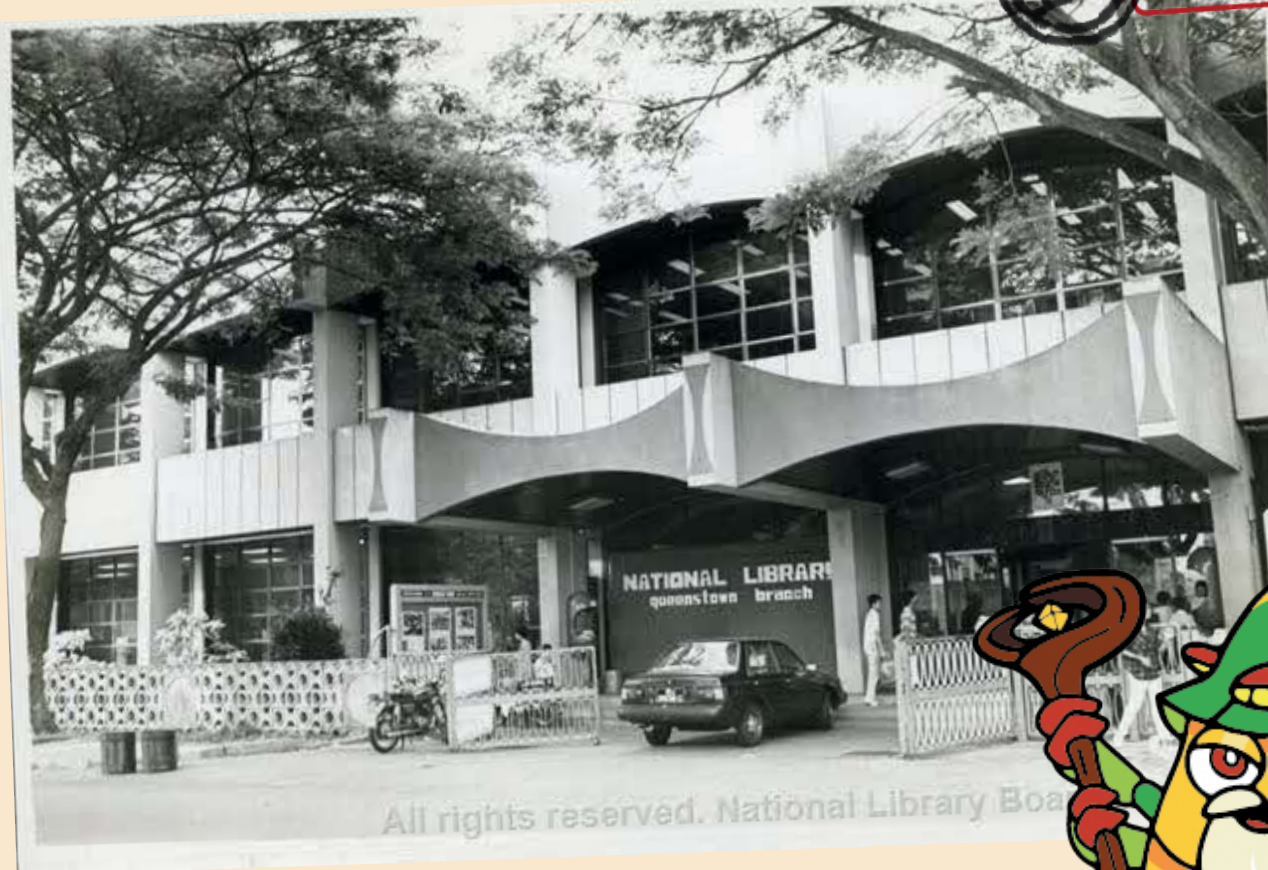
Public Libraries
Singapore

Ix's Library Facts

Queenstown Public Library



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Collection of National Library, Singapore



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Did You Know?

Queenstown was made up of hills and swamps that housed villages, farmlands, and cemeteries before the land was cleared in the 1950s–60s. Named after Queen Elizabeth II, Queenstown was designed to be Singapore's first satellite town. This meant that people could access daily needs and activities like buying groceries, going to school, or seeing a doctor near their homes.

Queenstown Public Library was opened in 1970 as the first branch library in Singapore, allowing residents to read and borrow books without having to visit the National Library in the city centre.

The Stamp Design



Inspired by a former village in Queenstown called Bo Beh Kang, meaning "No Tail River" in Hokkien, mysterious Vetala overlooks a stream of an unknown source.

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Ix's Library Facts

Sembawang Public Library



National Library Board



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the Book Bugs monthly quizzes!

Did You Know?

Sembawang is named after the Sembawang tree, which likely grew in abundance along the Sembawang River but was later cleared for crops like gambier, rubber and pineapple. The only natural hot spring on mainland Singapore was discovered here in 1908 and is situated in Sembawang Hot Spring Park today, where visitors can soak their tired feet and even cook eggs! In 1938, an important British naval base opened in Sembawang, as the world's largest drydock of the time.

Honouring the shipyard legacy in its design, Sembawang Public Library has fun container-shaped reading spaces in the children's section.

The Stamp Design



Join Ay and Bea, who are enjoying a good soak at Sembawang Hot Spring Park!

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Public Libraries
Singapore

Ix's Library Facts

Sengkang Public Library



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Sengkang means “prosperous harbour” in Chinese. The area used to be known as Kangkar, meaning “foot of the river” in Teochew, since it was a fishing village with its own jetty located along the Serangoon River. Sengkang was redeveloped in the late 1990s into a town and housing estate with designs inspired by its past as a fishing village and plantation district.

The rustic riverside port theme is found throughout Sengkang Public Library, where the book display modules are based on traditional fishing baskets.

The Stamp Design



Taking inspiration from Sengkang's bustling fish market of the past, the stamp features Nimfa selling her latest catch.

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Ix's Library Facts

Serangoon Public Library



National Library Board



Psst, this information may be useful for the Book Bugs monthly quizzes!

Did You Know?

The name Serangoon is thought to come from the Malay word *ranggong* (marsh bird) or Malay phrase "diserang dengan gong", meaning "to attack with gongs or drums", drawing reference to gongs used to frighten animals away from kampung houses amidst coconut and rubber plantations. From 1945–2012, Serangoon was home to the Tan Moh Hong Reptile Skin and Crocodile Farm where more than 100 crocodiles were kept! Now, it is a busy region with major retail hub NEX, easily accessible through its interchanges.

Serangoon Public Library is the first library in Singapore located on a rooftop, where visitors can enjoy a scenic view from NEX.

The Stamp Design



Serangoon Public Library

Yeekhaw tips his cowboy hat in front of a building inspired by the vibrant Indian Heritage Centre nestled along Serangoon Road.

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Public Libraries
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Ix's Library Facts

Tampines Regional Library



Collection of National Library, Singapore



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Did You Know?

In the early days, Tampines used to be a rural area with villages, farms, plantations, and as many as 26 sand quarries! The sand was mined for the reclamation of Singapore's east coast, creating deep craters and small hills. The construction of Tampines New Town started in the early 1980s, marking the start of its transformation into the modern public housing estate and town that we see today.

Tampines Regional Library opened in 1994 and was originally located along Tampines Avenue 7 before it moved to Our Tampines Hub in 2017. It is the first regional public library to open in Singapore!

The Stamp Design



The tree next to Nilavan was inspired by the Tempinis tree, which used to be common and widespread in the area.

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Public Libraries
Singapore

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Ix's Library Facts

Toa Payoh Public Library



Collection of National Library, Singapore



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Did You Know?

Toa Payoh was once a swampy forested area, reflected in its name "toa" meaning "big" in Hokkien and Teochew and "payoh" from the Malay word "paya" for "swamp". In the 1960s, it was the second town to be built and was even selected to house athletes during Singapore's first international sports event in 1973, the 7th Southeast Asian Peninsular Games (SEAP). Toa Payoh's iconic dragon playground was built in 1979, featuring slides and a colourful body built with terrazzo tiles.

The hexagonal shapes at the Baby Books' corner in Toa Payoh Public Library are inspired by mosaic tiles in old playgrounds.

The Stamp Design



Photogenic Xora snaps a selfie at the renowned dragon playground in Toa Payoh.

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Ix's Library Facts

Woodlands Regional Library



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Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



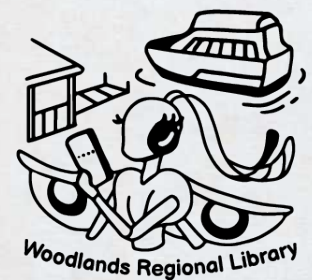
Psst, this information may be useful for the Book Bugs monthly quizzes!

Did You Know?

While Woodlands used to have pineapple, gambier and nutmeg plantations, it is more commonly known as a transport link between Singapore and Johor. In 1903, a railway station was built at Woodlands but trains could only cross to Johor directly in 1924 when the Causeway opened. It was redeveloped as a public housing and industrial estate in the 1970s, with Woodlands Integrated Transport Hub and Causeway Point at its busy town centre.

Inspired by Woodlands' nature reserves, an Enchanted Tree brightens up the children's section in Woodlands Regional Library.

The Stamp Design



Have you heard of ferry services that used to run all day and night between Singapore and Johor, as early as 1875? Teasha is heading onboard!

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Public Libraries
Singapore

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Ix's Library Facts

Yishun Public Library



National Library Board



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Did You Know?

Yishun was part of an area known as Seletar, which stretched from Seletar River to Sembawang River. It was home to the Orang Seletar, who lived on boats and roamed the shores of northern Singapore and southern Johor. Yishun is named after Lim Nee Soon, a businessman who made his fortune by setting up rubber and pineapple plantations here in the 1900s.

The current design of Yishun Public Library is inspired by Yishun's plantation past. The Quiet Reading Lounge has 26 cosy nooks for those who want to curl up with a good book.

The Stamp Design



Yishun Public Library

Taking inspiration from Yishun's plantation past, this design features Weta tapping a rubber tree while he spies on others.

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