

# THE ASIAN LIBRARY AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

**A major  
international  
knowledge hub  
on Asia**



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

# OUR VISION

Leiden University is about to create an Asian Library for its extensive collections on Asia including the largest collection worldwide on Indonesia. Recently, Leiden University Libraries has taken on responsibility to accommodate under one roof the dispersed Asian collections of Leiden University and leading research collections with significant Asian components from other institutions.

Leiden University is already a major international knowledge hub on Asia for scholars and students from all over the world participating in top research and teaching programmes. The Faculty of Humanities, where many of the Leiden scholars focusing on Asia reside, ranks among the top 30 arts & humanities programmes in the world. Thanks to its deep international network, Leiden University can bring together leading figures from the world of research, culture, law, politics, finance and business to increase further insight and to deal with the challenges we face together.

The Asian Library will be a central focal point for study, research and encounters between those with a profound interest in Asia and its position in the world. It will provide state-of-the-art facilities and seeks to expand its collections and make them widely available, among others, through intensive digitisation programmes and the inclusion of born-digital information.

The Asian Library intends to create, together with partners, a digital Indonesian Library that will be available worldwide. The Library seeks to extend its deep expertise on Asia with a curatorship for digitised and born-digital Asian collections. Furthermore, a fellowship programme, funded by partners, will allow international scholars to visit the Library for prolonged research visits and to establish connections with leading researchers.

Leiden University is one of Europe's foremost research universities. The university belongs to the top 20 European universities and consistently ranks among the top 60-80 universities worldwide. Up till now, Leiden University boasts 16 Nobel Prize laureates and 18 Spinoza Prize winners. Leiden is also the oldest university in the Netherlands, founded in February 1575 as a gift from William I, Prince of Orange to the citizens of Leiden in recognition of their sacrifices in the siege by the Spanish in 1573-74. Leiden was the first university in the Netherlands to exercise freedom of belief and religion. This is reflected in the university's motto: *Praesidium Libertatis*, or Bastion of Freedom.



# A FOOTPRINT OF LEIDEN UNIVERSITY AND LEIDEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**“Leiden is one of the global intellectual centres for Asian studies** attracting the best to our excellent research & teaching programmes and world class collections.”

**Prof. mr. Carel Stolker**

*Rector Magnificus & President, Leiden University*



‘The Asian Challenge’ and ‘Global Interaction of Civilizations and Languages’ are two of the six main research themes of Leiden University. The University runs world class research and teaching programmes in the field of Asian area studies within different faculties. Leiden nurtures its tradition of multidisciplinary research on China, Japan, India, Korea and Indonesia and has a long history of research and teaching in Asian traditions, with a focus on language and philology, history, religion, philosophy, law and literature.

In the last thirty years, Leiden University has built up an equally impressive track record in the study of modern and contemporary Asia, branching out from the original core disciplines and specialisations into politics, international relations, development economics, anthropology and sociology, law and socio-legal studies, and culture and media studies. The University offers in-depth education and knowledge on civilisations, histories, economies, cultures, languages, and systems of law and governance of East, South and Southeast Asia, and the transnational position of Asia in the world.

The *International Institute for Asian Studies* (IIAS) is based in Leiden. This research institute encourages the multidisciplinary and comparative study of Asia and, acting as a national, European and global mediator, actively promotes national and international cooperation. The Institute was jointly established by the *Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences* (KNAW), *Leiden University*, the *Universiteit van Amsterdam* (UvA) and the *Vrije Universiteit* (VU).

In the field of Asian area studies, Leiden University collaborates intensively with renowned research institutions like the *Royal*

*Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies* (KITLV) but also with the leading research institutions in the cultural heritage field. In Leiden, for instance, with the *National Museum of Antiquities* (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden), the *National Museum of Ethnology* (Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde), *Naturalis Biodiversity Centre* and *Japan Museum SieboldHuis*. Leiden University collaborates with the leading research universities internationally, including members of the *League of European Research Universities* (LERU). Leiden University also works closely with a number of the top research universities in many countries in Asia, e.g., in the People’s Republic of China with *Peking University*, *Shandong University* and *Xiamen University*; in India with *Jawaharlal Nehru University*; in Indonesia with *Universitas Indonesia* and *Universitas Gadjah Mada*; in Japan with *Kyoto University* and *Osaka University*, in the Republic of Korea with *Yonsei University*; and in Singapore with *National University of Singapore*.

The university’s world class research, teaching and information resources combined with this closely knit network of academic and cultural organisations makes Leiden University a major international knowledge hub on Asia.

“With its renowned Asian collections and advanced services, **Leiden University Libraries supports research, teaching and cultural activities** in concert with an international network of leading research libraries and heritage institutions. ”

**Kurt De Belder, MA, MLIS**

*University Librarian, Director Leiden University Libraries & Leiden University Press*



Leiden University Libraries (hereafter also referred to as ‘the Library’) is the oldest and –collection wise- the largest university library in the country. It includes the University Library, specialised libraries in law, social sciences, sciences, East Asian studies and a library learning centre in The Hague. In 2012, we celebrated 425 years of library collections and services with the publication of *Magna Commoditas; Leiden University’s Great Asset*.

### Renowned collections

The Library manages vast collections of scholarly information and cultural heritage materials. It includes, among others, more than 5.2 million book volumes, 1.2 million e-books, 44,000 e-journals and hundreds of databases. Leiden University Libraries is known internationally for its special collections. We hold the largest collection of medieval manuscripts in The Netherlands, the oldest and most complete photography collection in the country, large and important collections of early printed books,

maps, prints, drawings, archives, manuscripts and letters.

And last but not least, the internationally renowned special collections on the Middle East and Asia which attract many scholars worldwide. UNESCO has inscribed two Indonesian manuscripts held by Leiden University Libraries in the *Memory of the World Register*: the *La Galigo* manuscript and the autobiographical manuscript of the Javanese prince *Diponegoro*. In this prestigious register, documents are inscribed affirming their world significance and outstanding universal value. Leiden University Libraries hosts more documents inscribed than any other heritage institute in the country.



### Intensive use of physical and digital facilities

The physical as well as the digital facilities of the Library are intensively used by students, faculty, visitors and international scholars. In 2014, around 2 million visits to the physical library are expected. Users greatly appreciate the recently refurbished University Library which offers state-of-the-art facilities for study and research. It includes

- the *Huygens Information Centre*, which recently was adorned with a new work of art ‘Monument for Nobel Laureates of Leiden University,’ a gift from the Leiden student organisation *Minerva*;

- 1.184 study places equipped with Wi-Fi and electrical outlets;
- individual study rooms where students can retreat and focus on the task at hand;
- group study rooms with smart boards where students can collaborate to prepare papers and presentations;
- the *Dousa Special Collections Reading Room* with excellent facilities to consult, study and digitise special collections materials;
- a media room where viewers can watch movies and documentaries from our extensive DVD and streaming media collections;
- the *Centre for Scholars* where visiting researchers are provided facilities for a prolonged research visit to the Library;
- an exhibition space, used to showcase the Library's special collections;
- teaching facilities equipped to accommodate seminars that intensively use materials from our special collections;
- the *Vossius Conference Room*, the centre at the Library for symposia, lectures and cultural events;
- the *Café UBé* with a great selection of espresso drinks, teas and sandwiches;
- and plenty of lazy lounge chairs throughout the library, perfect to snuggle up into with a magazine, a tablet or just to chill.

Users of the Library do more than 5.5 million searches annually in our library catalogue, download more than 2.6 million articles and borrow more than 200,000 physical items. Through the library's open access facilities, Leiden scholarly publications are downloaded annually more than 2 million times worldwide.

### Extensive digitised collections

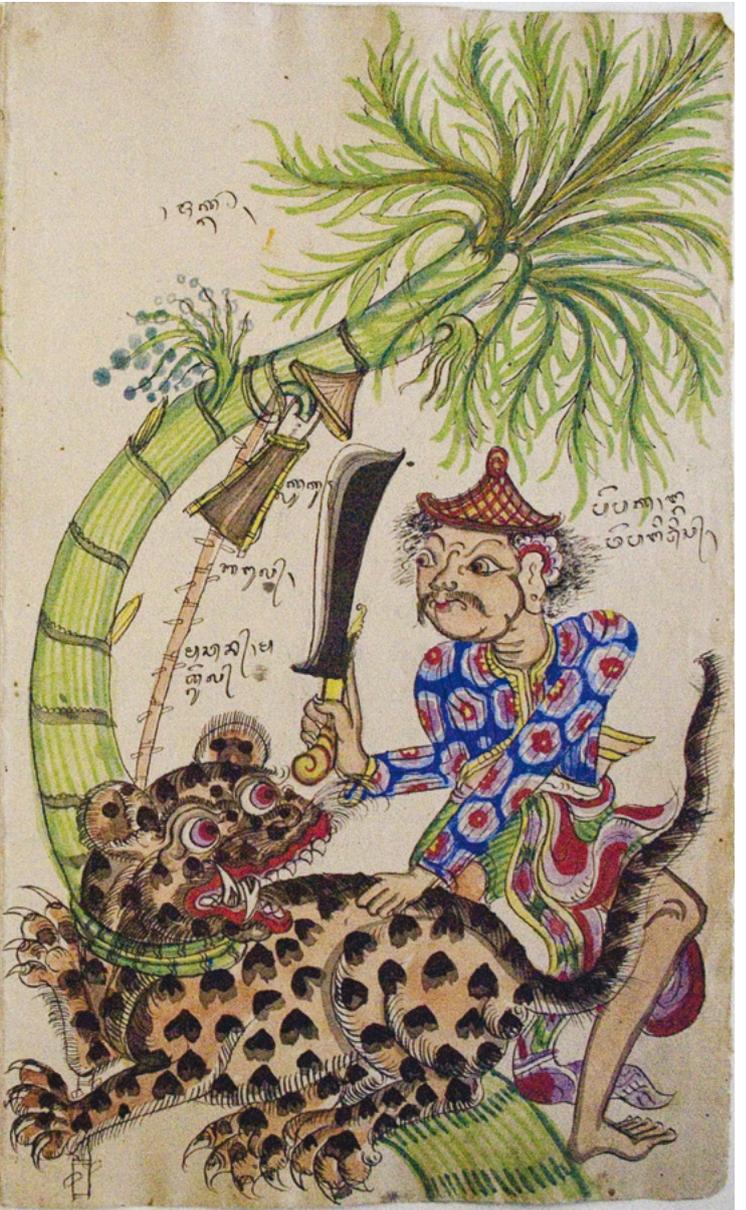
The Library runs major digitisation projects making its special collections and other materials available worldwide. In total, the Library stores more than 100TB (terabyte) of digitised information, representing millions of scans that make up more than 520,000 digital objects (books, journal issues, maps, manuscripts, prints, photographs, etc.). This is a tremendous amount which is hard to come to grips with. The following comparisons do give a certain sense of its scale: computer scientist & futurist Raymond Kurzweil mentions in his book *The Singularity is Near* that the capacity of a human being's functional memory is estimated to be 1.25TB; on the other hand, it would take 10TB to display the printed collection of the U.S. Library of Congress.

The Leiden *La Galigo* manuscript was inscribed by UNESCO in 2011. *La Galigo* is one of the largest works of literature and relates the story of humanity's origin. It has become well known as *I La Galigo*, a music work by Robert Wilson, the American avant-garde theatre director and performer. *La Galigo* originated in South-Sulawesi and is written in the Buginese language. The Leiden manuscript consists of 12 volumes, it contains the first part of this lengthy epic poem and is the largest fragment in existence. It was transcribed in Makassar at the request of the theologian and linguist Benjamin Frederik Matthes (1818-1908). The transcription is by the hand of Colliq Pujjié (Arung Pancana Toa), Queen Mother of Tanete, a small kingdom in South-Sulawesi. The manuscript is part of a collection of Indonesian manuscripts from the Netherlands Bible Society, on permanent loan at Leiden University Libraries.

In 2013 the autobiographical manuscript of the Javanese prince *Diponegoro* (1755-1855), national hero and pan-Islamist, was inscribed by UNESCO. The prince of Yogyakarta wrote his autobiographical chronicle, the *Babad Diponegoro*, during his exile in North-Sulawesi in 1831-1832. The chronicle recounts a personal account from one of the key figures in modern Indonesian history. It is the first known memoir in modern Javanese literature and shows, for that period, an unusual sensitivity for local circumstances and experiences. The manuscript is part of the KITLV collections held by Leiden University Libraries.







## Cultural activities & societal impact

Through exhibitions, conferences, lectures, discussion panels and meetings, the Library shows its collections and makes its expertise relevant to the public at large. The Library organises three to four small in-house exhibitions annually, usually in close collaboration with scholars, students and fellows of the *Scaliger Institute*. Once a year, the Library organises a large exhibition together with one of the Dutch national museums, showcasing selections from its special collections.

- *Leiden Celebrates! Highlights of an Academic Collection*, Rembrandt House Museum, Amsterdam. 18 October 2014 – 26 January 2015.
- *Straatwerken* (drawings by 17th century artist Leonaert Bramer), Westfries Museum, Hoorn, 14 December 2013 – 3 March 2014.
- *World Treasures! From Cicero to Erwin Olaf. Discover the Special Collections of Leiden University*. Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, 9 March 2013 - 30 June 2013.
- *Turcksche boucken (Turkish books) from Levinus Warner. A seventeenth century diplomat and book collector in Istanbul*. Museum Meermanno, House of the Book, The Hague, 15 December 2012 - 3 March 2013.
- *Sweet & Salt. Water and the Dutch*. Kunsthal, Rotterdam, 14 February 2012 - 10 June 2012.
- *Erwin Olaf: Relief of Leiden*. Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal and Leiden University Library, Leiden, 29 September 2011 - 8 January 2012.
- *In Atmospheric Light. - Pictorialism in Dutch Photography 1890-1925*. Rembrandt House Museum, Amsterdam, 1 April 2010 - 20 June 2010.
- *Photography! A special collection at Leiden University*. The Hague Museum of Photography, The Hague, 23 January 2010 - 18 April 2010.
- *On route to the Golden Age - Hendrick Goltzius & Jacob de Gheyn II*. Limburgs Museum, Venlo, 28 November 2009 - 28 February 2010.
- *City of Books. Seven Centuries of Reading in Leiden*. Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, 22 February 2008 - 1 June 2008.

These exhibitions usually draw a large audience (ranging from 7,000 to 54,000 visitors) and have received glowing reviews in national and international newspapers.

## Voices from the press

“Every collector’s wet dream.”  
De Telegraaf, 26 April 2013

“Museum De Lakenhal shows an impressive selection from Leiden University’s Special Collections. [...] In short: a real treasure”  
Het Financieele Dagblad, 17 April 2013

“*Sweet & Salt: Water and the Dutch*, which should be required reading these days.”  
New York Times, 13 February 2013

“Olaf’s interpretation of the Siege is harder, darker, probably more realistic than those in the traditional idealized history paintings. With his images of plague doctors, he shows that the plague – according to the latest research from Leiden University – led to more deaths than hunger.”  
NRC Handelsblad, 28 September 2011

“The treasures of Leiden were never before revealed on such a large scale. [...] In short, a feast of recognition.”  
Trouw, 23 April 2010

“Paeon to the spirit of the age in 170 photographs.”  
Het Parool, 25 January 2010

“The treasure trove of Leiden. Leiden University manages a world class photograph collection.”  
Focus 97, February 2010

“Internationally the fame of the Leiden collection is tremendous.”  
NRC Handelsblad, 23 January 2010

“It’s all about these surprises.”  
De Volkskrant, 29 January 2010

“Not large, but great”  
Dagblad De Limburger, 1 December 2009

“Leiden book history; ‘City of Books’ is a gem”  
NRC Next, 25 April 2008



The Library lends items from its special collections to an average of 30 exhibitions a year, many of them organised by internationally renowned museums.

The Library is founding partner of a number of national and international endeavors that not only serve research and educational purposes but which also stimulate access to and use of scholarly information and cultural heritage materials by the public at large.

- The Library is one of the lead partners in setting up *Delpher* [www.delpher.nl], a national digital resource that makes more than 1 million Dutch books, newspapers and magazines freely available worldwide.
- We are also founding partner of the *OAPEN* initiative [www.oapen.org], set up initially through funding from the European Commission, and presently making available more than 2,200 scholarly monographs in open access.
- The Library is one of the initial charter members of *Knowledge Unlatched*, an international endeavor to make the publication of scholarly monographs possible through open access.
- More locally, we took the initiative to set up, with many other cultural and academic partners in Leiden, *Podium071* [www.podium071.nl], a cultural-academic activity programme that caters to the general, and interested, public.

## A Partner in Knowledge

The Library is a *partner in knowledge* for faculty and students. Within this context, the Library focuses on creating vital – often digital – information services that support teaching and research. Our copyright office, e.g., deals with copyright issues that authors encounter with regard to their publications or with the creation of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). The Library supports collaborative digital work environments for research groups with its *Virtual Research Environments*, we offer advice and expertise with regard to the management of research data, we inform authors and research grant writers about issues related to open access publishing, we support researchers who come to grips with the possibilities of text & data mining and geographical mappings to discover patterns in vast amounts of information and who ask questions that could never be answered without these techniques. The Library and its role within the university is changing fundamentally because of these developments: the library becomes a partner in research and teaching.

## Collaboration and networks

The Library's Asian subject specialists and curators lead or have leadership positions in:

- the *European Association of Sinological Librarians* (EASL) which was founded in 1981 in Leiden;

- the *European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists* (EAJRS);
- the *Southeast Asian Library Group* (SEALG).

The Library is frequently invited to join international initiatives that deal with Asian collections:

- Leiden University Libraries together with *Columbia University*, the *Smithsonian Institution* and the *University of Sydney* constitute the four worldwide depositories of the *Japan Art Catalogue* project of the *National Art Centre* in Tokyo.
- In 2014, Leiden University Libraries has been designated a *Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies* by the *National Central Library of Taiwan*, joining a select number of international centres, such as, the *School of Oriental and African Studies* (London), the *University of Texas at Austin*, *Leipzig University* and the *Institute of Oriental Studies* at the *Russian Academy of Sciences*.

Furthermore, Leiden University Libraries collaborates closely with:

- national museums and heritage organisations;
- the Royal Library and other university libraries;
- member libraries of the *Association of European Research Libraries* (LIBER);
- worldwide partners within the *OCLC Research Library Partnership*.

In 2006, at the invitation of the *Bodleian Libraries*, the *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek* in Munich, the *Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, the *British Library*, *Leiden University Libraries* and *Princeton University* joined forces and became partners in setting up the *Centre for the Study of the Book* at *Oxford University*.

## International fellows at the Scaliger Institute

In 2000, the Library founded, in close collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities, the *Scaliger Institute* which stimulates and facilitates the use of Leiden's special collections for international fellows. Since then, the Scaliger Institute has received, in its centre at the Library, 198 fellows and guest-researchers from 26 countries spread over all continents, except Antarctica. Many of them stay at the Library for two to three months and have competed for one of our four sponsored fellowships: the Scaliger, Brill, Elsevier or Van de Sande fellowships. The fellows at the *Scaliger Institute* are brought into contact with colleagues who focus on related research at Leiden University, and give public lectures about the research they conduct at the Library.

# LEIDEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IS BRINGING ASIAN COLLECTIONS TOGETHER

Parts of Leiden University's Asian collections were dispersed physically and organisationally and have been brought together by Leiden University Libraries in recent years. Furthermore, the Library has recently also taken on responsibility for major research collections with significant Asian components. The Asian Library will bring together the following collections:

- Leiden University Libraries' acclaimed *Southeast Asian Collections*. Among these collections, the *Malay-Indonesian collection* takes a prominent place. Manuscripts from Indonesia (Malay Archipelago and Malay Peninsula) are available since the Library's beginning. Nowadays these belong to the oldest of the manuscripts that are still extant in Indonesia and the rest of the world. Another important part of this manuscript collection was formed in the second half of the 19th century when three major collections were integrated into the Library: the collection of Delft Royal Academy (1842-1864), of the Leiden institution for the training of civil servants in the Netherlands Indies, and the bequest of Herman Neubronner van der Tuuk (1824-1894), a language expert who was a specialist in languages of the Netherlands Indies. In the 20th century the collection of Indonesian manuscripts continued to grow, among others because of the bequest of Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje (his correspondence with contacts in the Arabian peninsula and Netherlands East Indies) and the so-called 'Projek Tik' which contains transcriptions of Balinese manuscripts in Balinese collections. Leiden also holds the library of the former *Ministry of Colonies*.
- The internationally acclaimed collections of the *Sinological Institute Library*, one of the leading libraries for Chinese Studies in the Western world (now part of Leiden's *East Asian Library*). The Chinese section includes approximately 300,000 titles and nearly 100 running subscriptions on journals originating from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, the United States and Europe. Additionally, the library has access to more than 8,000 Chinese language

e-journals, a substantial DVD collection and hundreds of thousands of e-books. The collection of Western materials includes 35,000 titles, a few hundred of non-current journals, and more than 100 running subscriptions on printed journals and newspapers. We have the most diverse Western language collection regarding China within Europe. Rare and special collections of Chinese books are stored in the Van Gulik Room, named after the Dutch diplomat and scholar Robert van Gulik as it contains a large part of his personal collection of rare books. The oldest printed books in this collection date back to the early 15th century.

- The rich collection of the *Centre for Japanese and Korean Studies* (now part of Leiden's *East Asian Library*). The Japanese collection was formed around 1880 consisting mainly of material collected by Dr. Von Siebold, and was greatly expanded thereafter. The collected materials originally included linguistics, religious studies, philosophy, classical literature, theatre, art history and general history, including hundreds of books dating from the Edo Period (1600-1869). From the 1980's onwards, field such as politics, sociology,



At a festive occasion on 12 September 2014, the agreement to locate the offices of KITLV-Jakarta on the grounds of the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta was signed by H.E. Ambassador mr. Tjeerd de Zwaan (R) and, for Leiden University, by dr. Roger Tol (L), Director KITLV-Jakarta.



anthropology, film studies, law and economics were added. Current library acquisitions keenly reflect research trends in relatively new fields such as manga and anime, environmental studies and waste management, nationalism, international relations, gender studies, and Japanese cuisine. In the second half of the 20th century, the Korean collection has manifested itself strongly as a library collection in its own right, reflecting the increased interest in Korean history, poetry, religion and studies on North Korea over the last two decades. Recent areas of interest in the collections include modern Korean literature, youth culture, women studies, linguistics, cinema, and North Korean relations. The Korea collection includes a large number of North Korean books, journals and movies rarely available outside of North Korea. Aside from printed material, the Japanese & Korean collections provide access to online newspapers archives, a wide range of e-journal portals and e-books, and an extensive DVD collection.

- The Kern Institute Library, the national centre of expertise for South Asia and the Himalayan region, more specifically India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan. The collection is among the largest in Europe. Highlights of its special collections include block prints, palm leaf manuscripts, rubbings and estampages. Apart of the world famous collections of Tibetan and Lepcha manuscripts and block prints collected by Johan van Manen, it also houses the exceptional Sanskrit manuscript collections compiled by Hendrik Kern and Johan van Manen, and an impressive collection of 70,000 photographs and 100,000 slides.
- *The colonial collection of the former Library of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)*. The history of the colonial collection of the *Royal Tropical Institute* in Amsterdam dates back to 1864, with the foundation of the *Colonial Museum* in Haarlem. Parts of this library collection can be traced back to the *Koninklijke Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen* (Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities), more specifically its department of *Koophandel en Colonies* (Trade and Colonies), which was founded in 1777. In 1913, the collection was transferred to the

*Colonial Institute*, founded in Amsterdam in 1910. After decolonisation, the mission of the institute was altered and its name changed to *Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)*. The KIT colonial collection includes unique materials and historical publications about the former Dutch colonies: Dutch East Indies, and Suriname and the Dutch Antilles, on subjects like agriculture, economy, culture, government, anthropology and history. In 2013, this colonial collection (from the beginnings up till 1950), as well as the extensive collection of maps (mostly from the period 1840 to the present) and the digital collections were transferred to Leiden University Libraries because of the closure of the KIT Library.

- The collection of the *Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)*. The history of the collection dates back to 1851 when KITLV was founded as a learned society originally in Delft, before it was moved in 1864 to The Hague and finally in 1966 to Leiden. With support from the highest political and governmental circles it started to gather scholarly information about the Dutch colonies in East and West, not in the least to inform policy making with regard to administration and economy. In that respect KITLV exercised an important function with support from the Ministry of Colonies as well as from the business world. The Japanese occupation and the independence of Indonesia lead to an arduous process of change at KITLV, that was concluded successfully. With its unique collections, its research and publications, its presence in Indonesia and its strong connection with the Caribbean, KITLV has become world renowned. In 2014, Leiden University Libraries became responsible for the (digital) collections from KITLV: extensive collections on Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. The KITLV depository comprises around a million – largely post-colonial – books and special collections, including 150,000 digitized photos, maps, prints, unique archives, newspapers and magazines from Indonesia, Suriname and the Antilles. The Library will continue to support the KITLV office in Jakarta which is essential for the future development of our Indonesian and Southeast Asian collections.

# THE FUTURE: LEIDEN UNIVERSITY'S ASIAN LIBRARY

By bringing all of these Asian collections together Leiden University creates one of the foremost Asian libraries and a major international centre for the study of Asia. Together, these materials constitute an Asian collection which is on par with a select number of international collections. Furthermore, Leiden University maintains the largest collection worldwide on Indonesia in which it is unique and unmatched. We want to make these collections accessible to the (inter)national community of scholars and students, as well as to the general public. Moreover, by bringing together the sizeable digitised sources of these libraries we will provide researchers worldwide with excellent and extensive research possibilities, including the use of new techniques in the field of e-humanities. But even more importantly, we will provide digital access to these unrivalled collections to members of different cultural and national communities all over the world with an interest in their culture, heritage and history.

In order to achieve this vision and to make our Asian collections accessible in the best possible way, Leiden University plans to extend its library facilities: physically as well as virtually. The essence of this project, forming the heart of our plan, is the construction of *The Asian Library*, situated *on top of* our existing University Library, originally designed by architect Bart van Kasteel (1976-1982). This top extension will create a wonderful space for researchers, students and visitors to meet, study and do research.

In order to create the required space for the additional 23km of Asian collections not yet housed in the University Library's open stacks and massive on-site warehouse, Leiden University plans to build a book depository with an initial capacity of 35km in the vicinity of the library that will hold low use non-Asian collections.



# THE ASIAN LIBRARY: FACILITIES AND OBJECTIVES

**Plans for the Asian Library contain the following elements:**

## **1. The Asian Library: an international centre for scholars, students and visitors**

On the rooftop of the University Library an Asian Library will be built as an international meeting place, housing state-of-the-art library facilities that allow for both research, study and cultural activities. The Asian Library will include collaborative facilities for scholars and students, a media centre and a centre which will offer space to visiting fellows and international scholars.

Visitors to the Asian Library will have a spectacular view from this location: in the centre of the Faculty of Humanities where many of the Asian specialists teach and do research, looking across the *Hortus Botanicus*, the University's botanical gardens, and the Academy Building, towards the adjacent historic centre of the city of Leiden.

The Asian collection itself will be immediately available on-site through digital access, an open stack collection and through fast delivery of the Asian collections all stored on-site. The Library makes this possible by building a large

external book depository in Leiden for low-use non-Asian materials. The University seeks further funding to accomplish this exciting vision.

## **2. The Indonesian Digital Library**

With the support of and collaboration with external partners, the Library will create an *Indonesian Digital Library* that is leading in the world. The Library will bring together the extensive digital collections on Indonesia of *Leiden University Libraries*, the *Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)* and the *Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)* and will intensify the digitisation of Indonesian materials. *This Indonesian Digital Library* will be available to a worldwide audience and will allow for scholarly research using the latest e-science and digital humanities techniques. Furthermore, the Library will also take on the task of collecting and incorporating born-digital materials within this digital library.

## **3. Extending collections for wider understanding of the region**

Leiden University has made a commitment to sustain the



present collecting levels in Leiden and in the KITLV Jakarta office to ensure the continued relevance and prominence of the Asian collections.

To meet the rapid growth of traditional and digital publications in the different Asian countries, the Library seeks named funds for the acquisition, digitisation and preservation of these materials.

#### 4. Named curatorship for digitised and born-digital Asian collections

To expand the existing in-depth subject expertise already present at Leiden University Libraries into new exciting areas that are rapidly becoming of the utmost importance, the Library seeks funding to establish an endowed and named curatorship for the digitised and born-digital Asian collections. The curatorship of these collections will ensure their availability to the general public worldwide, their usability for advanced digital humanities techniques such as, image recognition, text & data mining and their long-term durability.

#### 5. The Asian Library International fellowship programme

The Library intends to expand the existing and highly successful fellowship programme at the *Scaliger Institute* with externally funded competitive fellowships focusing on Asian studies and on specific countries and regions in Asia. The fellows stay for a prolonged period of time (two to three months) at Leiden's Asian Library and use its collections, meet and collaborate with other scholars and specialists present at Leiden University and give public lectures about the research they have conducted. The sponsors of such a

fellowship programme focusing on Asian studies would join the valued and respected sponsors of the *Scaliger Institute*, such as, Brill Publishers, Elsevier Publishers and the Van de Sande Foundation.

Carel Stolker, Rector Magnificus & President of Leiden University, and Kurt De Belder, University Librarian & Director of Leiden University Libraries look forward to discuss these exciting developments and funding opportunities with interested parties.

Contact Kurt De Belder via email at [k.f.k.de.belder@library.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:k.f.k.de.belder@library.leidenuniv.nl) or telephone: +31 (0)71 527 2831

#### Websites

*Leiden University Libraries:*

[www.library.leiden.edu/](http://www.library.leiden.edu/)

*Leiden University's Special Collections:*

[www.library.leiden.edu/special-collections/](http://www.library.leiden.edu/special-collections/)

*Scaliger Institute:*

[www.library.leiden.edu/special-collections/scaliger-institute/](http://www.library.leiden.edu/special-collections/scaliger-institute/)

#### Colophon

September 2014

*Text & images:* Leiden University Libraries

*Brochure design:* Ratio Design

*Visuals Asian Library:* Yucon Amsterdam

*Design:* Katja Hogenboom Studio with FELSCH architecten



# Leiden University Libraries

(as per July 1, 2014)

Number of library locations	7	Number of searches in Catalogue per year	5,531,445
Number of employees (fte)	130	Number of loans per year	203,595
Number of book volumes	5,200,000+	Number of consulted articles in e-journals per year	2,600,000+
Number of e-books	1,188,745	Number of paper monograph acquisitions per year	21,350
Number of current paper journal subscriptions	3,327	Total number of study places	1,842
Number of electronic journals (full text)	44,277	Total number of opening hours per year, all locations together	16,000
Number of available databases	523	Total number of hours per week that you have access to at least one library	94
Number of Leiden research publications in Repository (open access)	16,084	Total number of information questions we deal with per year	20,595
Number of downloads in Repository per year	2,097,646	Number of visits in 2014, January-July	1,000,619



[library.leiden.edu](http://library.leiden.edu)