The application of oral history methodology in developing the Selangor State Collection: the experience of the Raja Tun Uda Library, Shah Alam

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Abstract

The discourse of this article is in regards to the methodological approach pertaining to the oral history and applied initiatives in developing the Selangor State Collection. The Selangor State Collection is a unique collection of a centralized body of information gathered concerning the Selangor State from both primary and secondary sources. The library’s statistics indicate that there is a high demand from its users to obtain information from primary sources especially in oral format in order to support their research. This represents a significant challenge for the management of the library owing to the lack of experience and expertise in conducting oral history research projects. As an integral institution of information within the state of Selangor, the Raja Tun Uda Library plays an essential role through the means of formulating new strategies that are economical in meeting the demands and needs of its users. In line with the mandate and envisioned goals of His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor, the active involvement of the library is incumbent towards the promoted advancement and administration of the collection of Selangor’s rich history, heritage and vast culture. Since 2012, the Raja Tun Uda Library began its collaborative efforts with various parties of which are inclusive of historians, tertiary institutions, associations and local communities, to redocument, recapture, reconstruct and rebuild the past through the prescribed methodological procedure of oral history. The active promotion and dissemination of these comprehensive findings in an effort to inspire learning and research relates to the treasures of transmitted local heritage.

Keywords: Selangor State Collection, Raja Tun Uda Library, oral history, developing
INTRODUCTION

The Raja Tun Uda Library is the state library of Selangor, which is also the headquarters of Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor (Selangor Public Library Corporation). The name was bestowed upon by the late Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah during the official opening date of the building on 15th March 1988.

The rebranding of Selangor Public Libraries under the corporation began in year 2009. The location shift of the Raja Tun Uda Library to a new building in 2011 has attracted a recorded number of 3,971,022 visitors accumulatively within five years. The building is surrounded by various public and private universities as well as secondary schools. Blessed with breathtaking scenery and landscape, the library was, in fact, a distinguished gift from His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, the current Sultan of Selangor, to the citizens of Selangor to commemorate the declaration of Selangor as a Progressive State in 2005. It was His Royal Highness vision to see that the Raja Tun Uda Library became a full-fledged public library, filled with books and knowledge, utilized fully by the citizens of Selangor.

DEFINITION

1. Application
   Application in the context of this paper will denote a practical use or relevance method to retrieve information related to life experience etc. This term will not refer to a program or piece of software designed to fulfil a particular purpose of ‘a database application.’

2. Oral history
   According to the National Committee on Oral History, National Archives of Malaysia, oral history relates to the techniques of eliciting the reminiscences of selected individuals through recorded interview sessions. The individuals selected are those considered best able to provide such information as derived from their personal involvement and experience of historical events, special relationship with particular personality or the bearing that specific period in history may have had on their lives.

3. Selangor State Collection
   The Selangor State Collection is considered a unique collection of Raja Tun Uda Library that was established in 1988. The Selangor State Collection has over 8,000 copies of both primary and secondary forms of materials. It has been a strategic research center for visitors such as our own stakeholders, government agencies, researchers and also fellow students in search of information related to the state. Among the collections that can be found are the Royal Collections, conference papers, Selangor State Acts, annual reports, theses, pictures, digital collections and books.
RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Why Oral History?

A major problem in reconstructing Malaysian history is the lack of the original historical resources (Halamy & Annabella, 2017). Much of what happened in the past was not recorded in written form. The ‘silenced history’ may reveal more lessons for us to learn.

By revealing bits and pieces of individuals’ complex experiences throughout the oral history sessions, we are gradually led towards a greater understanding of the more complete picture of the past. Our journey of discovery reflects the choices we made. While we cannot change the past, we can definitely learn from the mistakes and it is what we do with the present that matters most.

Learning from the past is paramount for any leaders to plan for the future of their organizations or countries. It may alter the course of direction they take, and it helps them in making the right decisions. The recorded history was traditionally kept in archives and libraries. Thus the Raja Tun Uda Library higher management made it among the library’s roles to redocument, recapture, reconstruct and rebuild the past through the prescribed methodological procedure of oral history, and as the guardian to this information.

Previously, there were requests for orally recorded materials as research reference, however the materials possessed by the library was limited in number. The library officers would usually advise visitors to search for such materials at the National Archives of Malaysia. However, in 2015 the Malaysian Ministry of Education announced a new format for the PT3 examinations for secondary school students in regards to their History subject. In this new format, students were required to complete their coursework by the application of two methods; library references and oral interviews. The enforcement of this new format has proven to be a big challenge to library personnel in providing relevant services to researchers and library patrons. Ever since its 26 years of establishment (year 1988-2014), the Selangor State Collection has never had any form of orally recorded material that could be used as reference for its users.

In order to resolve this issue as well as providing the finest research services, the library’s higher management decided to apply an oral history methodology as an initiative in expanding the Selangor State’s Collection. By doing so, this would assist in strengthening the field of documented history as well as the improvement of sociocultural development in the state of Selangor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER OF RESEARCH</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>525</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 (till May)</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1: Selangor Collection research statistics*
OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

The application of the oral history methodology in developing the Selangor State Collection is aimed at assisting such efforts through these aspects:

a) To redocument, recapture, reconstruct and rebuild the past;
b) To enhance the collection of written historical sources in Selangor;
c) To avoid losing valuable information;
d) To preserve all oral information and tradition into a new medium;
e) Contributing towards state heritage.

METHODOLOGY

A literature review approach from previous studies and surveys was put forth to the library users through enquiry forms from the Reference and Research Department, as the main research methodology. In addition to this, continuous observation by the staff on duty and noted verbal trend requests for research materials by users for library resources were also used as an applied approach for this research study.

METHODS OF ORAL HISTORY

Dempsey (2000) states that institutions such as archives, libraries and museums serve as Memory Institutions for their collections contain references regarding humanity, the social environment, institutions, individuals, cultures and scientific heritage as the result of an extended timeframe borne through creativity and learning.

In the realization of becoming a state collection center, the Raja Tun Uda Library needs to be active in terms of growing its information storage with a focus on the aspects of its history, heritage and culture. The application of this oral history methodology would encourage the library staff members involved to be more mature in conducting research, fieldwork as well as carrying out interview sessions to obtain the desired information. The information gathered would then be transformed into a new form of knowledge for the reference of library users. This is in line with the objectives of the construction of the Selangor Collection in providing a one-stop center for referral information regarding the state collection which would help researchers, students, various departments and individuals to perform research in their related fields. The Raja Tun Uda Library is also aiming to acquire at least a hundred new titles per year for the Selangor State collection with the addition of the oral history records contributing to the burgeoning of the collection.

Mohd (2017) said that researchers recognize that oral history is one of the best methods of recording and preserving important information stored in the memory of an individual in the form of tacit knowledge. This is because it is easier to navigate and understand with the likelihood to have many readers when a desired information is disclosed to the public.

The National Archives of Malaysia is a precursor to the development of oral history in Malaysia since 1970 and has carried out 641 oral history projects to date. While the Raja Tun Uda Library might be a little behind in using these methods as compared to other libraries in Malaysia, it is seen as an integral requirement in the development of a local collection. This noble effort has gained support from various groups, including the National Archives of Malaysia, Oral History Association of Malaysia, the Malaysian Historical Society Selangor Branch and the Department of History of numerous local universities. There are also
individuals who are well-known practitioners in the field of oral history working together with the library to further develop these efforts and are engaged in ongoing projects.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HISTORY

The public communication system among the Malays started somewhat later than other races at around the 18th to 19th century. This implies that the written and recorded communication process only began when Malaysia was colonized by the British. However this delay by no means indicates that the society at the time was not knowledgeable. The height of knowledge among them was at par and comparable to any other civilization in the world. The reason being that the Malays back then used verbal communication as a means of delivering information from one generation to another. All this information was then recorded through the methodology of oral history by utilizing interviewing techniques and preserved for today's generation.

If the Greeks were proud of the works by Thucydides in the History of the Peloponnesian War, we should not deny the greatness of authors in our own homeland. The Malay Peninsula has Tun Sri Lanang, whose most notable work was the compilation of all the events that took place during his time as Bendahara (Grand Vizier) of the Johor Sultanate, recorded in the Malay Annals. In addition, there exists several narrated epics that were written based on the findings of oral sources and used as vital references, such as The Epic of Amir Hamzah, The Epic of Muhammad Hanafiyah and The Epic of Johor-Riau (Muhd Norizam and Shaiful, 2015).

The Epic of Amir Hamzah is one of the epics mentioned in the Malay Annals when Malacca was defending itself from the Portuguese attack. It was said that the Sultan of Malacca himself had requested the saga to be read out for the purpose of uplifting the fighting spirit of the Malay warriors during that period. On the other hand, the Epic of Johor-Riau narrates the history of the Bugis kings in Riau and Selangor with Raja Haji Fisabilillah as the main character. At the beginning, the saga focuses on the historical events of Riau but at the final parts it gradually shifts the attention to Selangor, which was strongly influenced by the Bugis kings after Riau was defeated by the Dutch.

However there are still many historical vacuums that must be filled with solid evidence. One of the biggest weaknesses in the efforts to rewrite the history of Malaysia is the lack of genuine historical sources. For instance, in the history of the Malay states, only a few states (Johor and Kedah) truly possess authentic sources relating to their historical development and even then they are only mostly concentrated around the 19th century. This matter becomes even more serious considering as how in Malaysia there is no tradition of keeping a diary, preserving documents with historical values or writing personal narratives that chronicle significant events that occur in this country.

Selangor itself has undergone numerous highlights of historical incidents starting from the colonial era of British Malaya, the Japanese occupation, the Malayan Emergency and the May 13, 1969 episode. Being in a very strategic geographical position at the center of Peninsular Malaysia, combined with the wealth of its natural resources, Selangor has attracted the migration of people from various races and social backgrounds. This situation has indirectly contributed to the existence of a multi-ethnic society that practices multiculturalism. All of these events are still not fully recorded with many voids yet to be filled. This methodology seeks to fill these gaps that occur in existing written sources by
adding absent particulars of history found in documented sources adding to available material and to encourage researchers to conduct studies on materials that have been prepared through oral sources (Nadzan, 1979).

Smith also highlighted that oral history was not just about describing a dead past. It was about using that past to shape the present. In doing so, oral historians were not only recognising their relationships with the subjects of their studies, but were frequently arguing that oral history should empower people who had been doubly marginalised in history and then in historiography.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROCESS AT THE RAJA TUN UDA LIBRARY

The Raja Tun Uda Library has referred to standard procedures issued by the National Archives of Malaysia in conducting its oral history project in an effort to produce its own guidelines. The 1978 international colloquium established by the South East Asian Regional Branch of International Conference on Archives (SARBICA) is the best platform in providing accurate information in the preparation of guidelines and promoting the development of an oral history project.

As is the common practice of oral history practitioners, this process is divided into three main parts, namely:

- Pre-Interview session – project planning and preliminary interview.
- During the Interview session – conducting the interview and recording.
- Post-Interview session – editing and processing; documenting and preserving; promoting and disseminating.

There are seven major processes that were executed in conducting the oral history project at the Raja Tun Uda Library, as illustrated below.

![Figure 1: The oral history process performed at the Raja Tun Uda Library]
PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

Since 2012, the Raja Tun Uda Library has carried out several basic oral history based programmes, initiated by Dr. Zahidi Zainol Rashid, former Director of Kedah State Library. His experiences and networking in establishing oral history in Kedah helped bolster the oral history initiatives at the Raja Tun Uda Library. (Dr. Zahidi is currently the President of Oral History Association of Malaysia). Among the programmes would be organizing seminars, workshops on oral history and oratory history sessions. In the year 2014, the Raja Tun Uda Library in tandem with the formation of the Selangor Public Library Corporation Strategic Plan, focused on collective and quality library collection development, commencing the first interview sessions in the advancement of these efforts. Initially, the library focused on the selection of projects based on their unique attributes, to be carried out, which were either lacking or not recorded and were only available in the state of Selangor.

The Raja Tun Uda Library initiatives in collaboration with various organizations such as a number of associations, local researchers, other institutions and student volunteers and local communities were to actively document the life history and experiences of individuals that have interesting past experiences to contribute, particularly the leaders of Selangor.

Among the projects that have been carried out are:
1. Selangor Chief of District Project
2. Commemorative Project of Raja Tun Uda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>INVOLVEMENT</th>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Selangor Chief of District Project | - Oral History Association of Malaysia  
- Malaysian Historical Society, Selangor Branch.  
- Selangor Chief District  
- Local researchers | - Oral History sessions  
- History narration sessions  
- Collection of photographs  
- Transcripts and videos |
| 2    | Commemorative Project of Raja Tun Uda | - Malaysian Historical Society, Selangor Branch  
- Family of Raja Tun Uda  
- Friends of Raja Tun Uda  
- Raja Tun Uda Secondary School, Penang  
- National Archives of Malaysia | - Oral History sessions  
- History narration sessions  
- Collection of photographs  
- Donation of Raja Tun Uda collection  
- Transcripts and videos |

Selangor Chief of District Project

The idea to carry out this project was mooted after the Sejarah Lisan & Pembangunan Koleksi Tempatan seminar (Oral History & Local Collection Development Seminar) that was held for the first time in 2012. During the seminar, the participants were able to observe examples of interview sessions and how they were conducted. Tan Sri Wan Mahmood Pa Wan the Gombak Chief of District and Dato’ Emran Kadir the Petaling Chief of District were the distinguished guests that were invited by the library for the seminar.
Both of the honourable guests shared their remarkable life experiences and life stories, touching the hearts of the participants of the programme. It was from this involvement of inspiring life experiences that the library decided to carry out this project and to compile it into a book for future research purposes.

The Chief of District Institution is a unique institution in the Malaysian Sultanate structure as the individual elected is an official representation of the Sultan placed at every district with specific and distinctive roles. Farhan (2012) in his research stated that the appointment has its beginnings during the administration of Sultan Salehuddin (1766–1874). The Chief of District acted as a government official assisting the Sultan in administration and management of rivers in Selangor as well as a tax collector to the state treasury. However, in October 1874 after Selangor fell under the British administration, the appointment was replaced by a District Officer under a district administrative system. In Perak, there are 4 administrative structures in the Chief of District Institution that expands to another 32 Chiefs of Districts. In Selangor, the Chiefs of Districts are placed according to the number of existing districts within Selangor.

For the purpose of this project, the library has planned to hold 10 interview sessions whereby each session would be conducted within their respective districts. For the first phase, five interview sessions were held in the districts of Sepang, Gombak, Kuala Langat, Kuala Selangor and Petaling. The remaining five sessions would be completed before the coming of 2018.

Among the fascinating accounts to be shared here is how the appointment of the Chief of District is determined. There are two types of appointments, either based on hereditary or non-hereditary. For instance, the appointment of the Kuala Selangor and Hulu Langat districts are hereditary. While the non-hereditary appointments are based on the involvement and expertise of the individual within the state administrative system.

Their roles and functions have changed whereby in the past they functioned as tax collectors, however this has currently been taken over by District Officers. Their role now is more as the eyes and ears of His Royal Highness, of their respective districts. In addition to this, the Chief of District is also responsible in protecting the sovereignty of Islam as the official national religion and to oversee that the royal cultures and traditions are adhered to especially during the Sultan’s visit to their respective districts.

**Raja Tun Uda Commemorative Project**

Raja Tun Uda was a figure who made numerous sacrifices and made significant contributions to the state of Selangor and Malaysia. He was the only individual who assumed the post of Selangor Chief Minister twice before being appointed High Commissioner to England and becoming the first Governor of Penang after Malaya declared its independence. Although his life was regarded as one of great importance in the administration of the state of Selangor and Malaysia, however regretfully there exists no writing concerning this esteemed leader.

As such, it has been quite challenging for the library to obtain information about him, especially to answer detailed questions put forth by the users regarding Raja Tun Uda. There are many things that can be written about his personality and leadership qualities during his days in the state administration. This fact drove us to collaborate with the Malaysian
Historical Society of the Selangor Branch to reach out to his descendants to express our wishes and to cooperate with them in the reconstruction of his memory.

The project which started on January 2, 2016 is targeted to be completed by mid 2018. The Library has conducted three series of interviews in which the first series was carried out on January 6, 2016 dedicated to the children of Raja Tun Uda. A total of four children were interviewed. The scope of the interview was more focused on the family and the career of their father.

The second series is of special sessions run by the two children of Raja Tun Uda namely, Tan Sri Raja Arshad and Raja Fuziah, along with SMK Raja Tun Uda Penang in collaboration with Raja Tun Uda Library. This session was a special request from the school which was named Raja Tun Uda, as the school wanted to gain greater insight about the role and personal life of Raja Tun Uda in the administration of Penang. This session was held at the Raja Tun Uda Library Shah Alam on June 2, 2016. The school has also built a special gallery as an honorary memento of his legacy.

A proposal by Raja Fuziah led to a third session. She suggested that a team of investigators go to Penang and interview a leading figure there, Tan Sri Yusoff Mohd Latif. He served as the political secretary to the Penang Chief Minister at the time and possesses greater insight of matters during the administration of Raja Tun Uda, from the years of 1957 to 1967. Although he never communicated directly with Raja Tun Uda however he is the only person who is still alive and still has a vivid memory of events to provide a narrative as the main consultant in Penang. This interview series was held on March 7, 2017 located at the Penang Malay Association.

After three series of interviews were conducted, Raja Tun Uda was found to be a vigorous and firm man of high integrity that did not like to mix his personal and professional life, and was very diplomatic when communicating with others. The library aims to carry out three more interview sessions until the end of this year and will produce a coffee table book as a token of appreciation for the contribution of the Selangor state.

METHOD OF ACCESSING

Once all the information is ready to be edited and processed, the material will be sent to the Selangor Collection and be classified as library material under the category SEL, referring to Selangor. This material will then be placed in the Selangor Info Hub room to enable users to access and refer to the available information. As determined by the management, anyone that wants to access this material must first refer to the officer on duty. Users can only refer to these oral history records internally. At present, users are permitted to only copy the transcribed material on record. This is in accordance to the Copyright Act 1987 issued by the Malaysian government.

All the materials in this collection represent a historical significance and must be preserved and conserved for future generations. This corresponds to a resolution issued by the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) in the Standing Conference for Eastern, Central and Southern African Library Associations (SCECSAL) in 2012, which outlined a number of roles to be played by libraries and archives in preserving local heritage. Among them is to implement a program to collect, maintain and disseminate information and
to promote informational resources which support teaching and research related efforts to local treasuries.

**IMPACT OF THIS INITIATIVE**

Overall, these efforts will have a great impact on the following:

**a. Policymakers**

The members of government departments, legislature, or other organizations who are responsible for making new policies. The tacit knowledge derived from the oral history will be beneficial to the great leaders of Selangor. This will definitely lead to a greater impact to the Malaysian history and will become a great support for next decision-making process made by top national leaders. Through oral history, library would deliver essential services that extend well beyond books and media. It would certainly become another piece of big data for decision-making to be practical, pragmatic and equitable. American Library Association (ALA) defines the new roles in National Policy Agenda: “Many people position in power, however, do not yet understand the expanded roles and capabilities of modern libraries nor recognize the extent to which libraries can be catalysts for opportunity and progress. As a result, the nation severely underinvests in libraries. To reverse this trend, library allies must unite around shared long-term policy goals—specifically ones that pragmatically align to political and economic realities—and work together to educate and influence decision makers” (ALA, 2015).

**b. The sustainability of the Selangor Collection development**

This method would be one of the initiatives in developing the collection, whereby libraries are seen to be more prepared in fulfilling the demands and needs of its users. The method of oral history also directly contributes to the construction of Collective Memory in Selangor. Lewicka (2008) interpreted this by stating that ‘collective memory as a series of events collectively remembered by a group of people who share it and involve themselves in shaping it.’ Whereas Lavenne (2005) states that ‘the greater the number of the people remembering the event, the more the memory finds a collective feature.’

The Raja Tun Uda Library does not take this great opportunity lightly. It has been proven through projects that have been carried out previously that there are respondents willing to share their family memories with an interviewer and some of them have even donated their personal collections such as books, photographs and important documents.

All of these items would then be conserved and placed in the Selangor Info Hub room for general users to view, assisting in the realization of creating a comprehensive and informative state collection center in line with the department's mission.

**c. Researchers**

Assisting researchers in support of the studies conducted, whereby the results lead to various forms of new discoveries as well as addressing inquiries that have been left unanswered. This is because researchers cannot merely rely on primary sources available in the archives or secondary sources at the library, rather they should be found through the efforts of information gathering by means of oral history (Rozeman, 2004). While Rais (2005) agreed that this method which is termed as a retrospective or diachronic study is very useful if one is involved in the study of social change or the developmental shifts of a community.
d. Individual and Community Spirit
Fostering patriotic spirit among each other by empowering local wisdom among individuals and communities which includes various aspects such as culture, customs, beliefs and history. Ethnic diversity and various groups residing in Selangor have uncovered very unique local knowledge to be explored and documented. Through the act of recounting past experiences and memoirs, the community can gain a greater understanding about the true meaning of the process of civilization and the retrospective evaluation of our own history. As we uncover ‘the story underneath the story’ we become more grateful, empathic, and always think of others. This will lead to a better understanding of events and would foster a more sincere relationship with one another, especially in a plural society. Only then can we succeed in our quest for national unity.

e. The State of Selangor
Preserving the history and culture of the state from being lost in the sands of time. History will not only provide the ‘root’ of things but it would assist in generating better relations among the people. It can help them to understand, appreciate and to be proud of their beloved state of Selangor.

FUTURE PLANS
The development of this collection has given a boost of motivation to the management and staff of the Raja Tun Uda library in being more active in using this method in gathering valuable information for the state of Selangor. Various plans, whether in the form of short or long term initiatives are in progress to ensure that the results of these efforts will not cease halfway. Among these efforts include holding more interview sessions involving more participation from local communities and several other plans as illustrated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>SHORT TERM PLAN (1-2 YEARS)</th>
<th>LONG TERM PLAN (3-5 YEARS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>History Narration Sessions with prominent figures.</td>
<td>Book publication in various mediums such as biography, coffee table book and e-book format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oral History Day with the local community.</td>
<td>Audio book publication cooperation with the Selangor State Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Seminar on oral history.</td>
<td>Oral history lab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MOA with education institutions which implement oral history in their syllabus such as Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) &amp; Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).</td>
<td>Centralized database for oral history projects in Selangor. Cooperation with National Archives Malaysia and other agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Time tunnel for Raja Tun Uda.</td>
<td>Transeferring oral history output into the digital environment such as animation, documentary and digital exhibition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>An appreciation of philately and cooperation with POS Malaysia &amp; the Philatelic Society of Malaysia.</td>
<td>Special website on oral history to promote the Raja Tun Uda Library collection.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION

Oral history has been a proven method of discovering new information that solves former riddles left by our forefathers. It has provided a significant impact on the advancement of History and Socioculture of our society not only within Selangor but throughout Malaysia as well. Ahmad Zaharuddin (2015) in his article highlighted that “we can never move forward if we fail to reflect on what has taken place in the sea of history and learn from the mistakes made in order to achieve a better future.”

This is an effective approach to instill passion for local history and culture in our society and in doing so it will motivate the next generation to explore and learn more about previous historical events and cultural values. Apart from assisting past researchers, oral history is considered as a connecting medium to establish grounding principles between policymakers and societies such as researchers, historians, humanists and also social institutions such as the library. As a result, the next generation would be more knowledgeable because they would have learned the truth of past events from previous generations. The Millennials can learn from what Baby Boomers and Gen-X have sacrificed. We believe that any knowledge if left forgotten without earnest attempts of preserving it, would as a consequence result in it becoming nothing more than a speck of dust in the vast desert of history, never to be remembered again.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The process of completing this paper is effortful and it is certainly not done single-handedly. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of them. Foremost, all praise and thanks due to Almighty Allah who always guide us to the right path and has helped us through this journey.

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