

SOME SCHOLARLY ENGLISH PERIODICALS IN PRE-INDEPENDENT MALAYSIA : AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Attempts to survey ten early Malaysian scholarly English periodicals which emerged during the pre-independent era. The study found that since 1847, certain individuals, learned associations, societies, government agencies or research institutions published scholarly periodicals in this region. Nevertheless, the growth in the number of these periodicals was rather slow, however, the momentum picked up after Independence on the 31st August 1957.

Keywords: Scholarly periodicals; Pre-independent Malaysia; Malaysian periodicals.

INTRODUCTION

Historically, the publication of scholarly periodicals by various learned and professional societies and universities in pre-independent Malaysia, goes back to the mid-fifties and the third quarter of the 19th century. Some examples are: *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* (1847-1862), *Journal of Eastern Asia* (1875), *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1878-), *Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula* (1891), *Journal of the Straits Medical Association* (1892) and *Perak Museum Notes* (1893) (Cheeseman, 1959; Howe and others (eds.), 1961; Boehm and Adolphus, 1961; Harris, 1967; Byrd, 1991).

Presently, the number of active scholarly periodicals published in Malaysia is around 214 (Md Sidin, 1997). Out of

this, 127 (59.3%) belong to the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and 87 (40.7%) to the Science, Technology and Medical fields. On the other hand, seven years ago a study noted the existence of only 149 scholarly periodicals in Malaysia (Kalsom and Zakiah, 1990). Pillai (1997), however contended that the actual number would be around 80-90 only. Tay (1989) gave a figure of about 335 titles. This number, however, is high considering the fact that he took into consideration newsletters, fashion magazines, bulletins, and advisory brochures apart from scientific periodicals. In another related paper, Lim (1975) derived a list of only 57 scholarly Malaysian periodicals as on 1st November 1974. Pang (1996) in his informal survey of scientific periodicals in Malaysia revealed that "currently there is no shortage of local publications in the various fields of science. He, however, added that sheer

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number can be a misleading indication of the Malaysian periodicals' healthy state of affairs".

Despite conflicting figures in Table 1, there seems to be a rising trend in the number of Malaysian periodicals. It is clear that, the majority of these scholarly periodicals existed after independence. The present Malaysian learned and professional societies and universities are the major publishers of such periodicals. Zainab (1997) argued that the growth of scholarly periodicals is an essential phenomenon in Malaysia as it is related to scholarly endeavors, and the propagation of new knowledge, which in turn may filter into practical applications for the advancement and improvement of the quality of life. The use of research articles (contained in scholarly periodicals) by library patrons, especially academicians and researchers alike, is due to the fact that these learned periodicals, with its diversity of topics, are the most important primary sources of current printed information available to them. These scholarly articles, which are often short and focus on a fairly narrow subject of their interest play a very important

role in the dissemination of accurate and up-to-date information, as they are quick to be accessed by potential users and act as a source of scholarly communication of knowledge and information.

OBJECTIVES

This paper has two-fold objectives. Firstly, it attempts to identify and compile a list of ten pre-independent Malaysian scholarly English periodicals. Secondly, the paper attempts to give a brief historical overview of these scholarly periodicals through its publication history especially in terms of their change of titles and the bodies responsible for its publication. There are many reasons for some periodicals to change its initial title. Some probable reasons are: 1) omission, addition or change of terms indicating frequency of publication; 2) broadening of scope by the addition of new subjects terms; 3) broadening of scope by changing subject terms because of the emergence of new subjects; 4) narrowing down of scope by leaving out subject terms; 5) narrowing down of scope by dropping out other terms; 6) change

Table 1: Growth of Malaysian Scholarly Periodicals

Year	No. of titles	Author(s) of studies
1997	214	Md Sidin Ahmad Ishak
1997	80-90	Sumangala Pillai
1990	149	Kalsom Sharrif & Zakiah Azmi
1989	335	T. H. Tay
1975	57	Lim Huck Tee

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of names of the sponsoring agencies; 7) changes involving place names; 8) change in the character of the periodical; and 9) changes from subordinate to independent titles, vice versa, and simplification of titles (Guha, Sen and Neogi 1975a; Guha, Sen and Neogi 1975b; Guha, Sen and Neogi 1976a; Guha, Sen and Neogi 1976b; Guha, Sen and Neogi 1977).

For this study, the term periodical refer to a publication with a distinctive title intended to appear in successive numbers or parts at stated or regular intervals, as a rule, for an indefinite time. Each part generally contains articles by several contributors (Thompson, 1973). Scholarly periodical refers to a journal containing academic and research articles and is concerned with a serious study of a particular topic and follows an acceptable form of academic enquiry (Zainab, 1997). Finally, the term pre-independent Malaysia refers to the geographical area covering the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo (Sabah) and Sarawak. These regions were under the British rule between the years 1786-1957, when independence was granted to them on the 31st of August 1957.

METHODOLOGY

To identify and list the ten early pre-independent Malaysian English scholarly periodicals, a number of comprehensive bibliographies, journal articles and books pertaining to Malaysian periodicals were referred to. Keeping in view the observation by Lim (1975), "It has been surprisingly difficult to gather data on Malaysian scholarly journals due to

serious information gaps. New journals are started with very little fanfare and frequently sink into oblivion, unnoticed and unmourned". Nevertheless, there are some available articles and bibliographies which indicate the current status of periodical listings in Malaysia. As early as 1959, Cheeseman had already compiled a bibliography of Malaya for the British Association of Malaya. Then, in 1961, the University of Malaya Library compiled the bibliography *Scientific and Technical Serials Currently Published in the Federation of Malaya*. Apart from that, Harris (1966) in *Guide to Current Malaysian Serials* listed current serials in English from Malaysia and Singapore and also came out with a rather comprehensive bibliography as to Malaysian periodicals in 1967. Lim (1962), contributed an article on current Malayan serials in *Majallah Perpustakaan Singapura*. Apart from that, the National Library of Malaysia also prepared its own listings of Malaysian periodicals coming out with *Indeks Majallah Kini Malaysia, Singapore dan Brunei* (1968) and *Index to Malaysian Periodicals* (1973) which indexed 87 titles. Byrd, (1970) also wrote a book about early printing in the Straits Settlement, 1806-1852, which was later translated into the Malay language by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka in 1991. To verify the accuracy of information gathered from these sources, the author also scanned and examined the listing of the periodicals collection found in the National Library of Malaysia, University of Malaya Library, Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia Library, Institute for Medical Research Library, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia Library, and National Museum Library.

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After the process of counter-checking, a final listing of the ten early pre-independent Malaysian scholarly periodicals is compiled. As to the current status of the periodicals, searches and checks are done and at times, calls are made to the publishing institutions to verify the latest issue published. However, the scope of this study is limited only to scholarly English periodicals published before the pre-independent era and therefore does not take into consideration scholarly periodicals published either in Jawi, Rumi or the Malay language.

PRE-INDEPENDENT MALAYSIAN ENGLISH SCHOLARLY PERIODICALS

According to Pillai (1997), journal publishing in Malaysia is relatively new. She noted that with the exception of a few journals which are more than 50 years old and started publishing before the independence of Malaysia, most learned journals in Malaysia are about 15-25 years old. However, Stone (1975) differs in his views as to the existence of scholarly journals in Malaysia. He argued that "Scholarly journals are by no means new on the scene in Malaysia, but those which were in existence prior to World War II often experienced a long interruption, and some did not survive". Nevertheless, this study found that scholarly English periodicals publishing in Malaysia started in late 1840's but the number of such scholarly periodicals was rather small (Table 2). Anyway, that was a good start for such a young nation of 41 years.

To my knowledge, the earliest pre-independent Malaysian scholarly English periodical ever published is the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* by James Richardson Logan, a well-known journalist and lawyer, in 1847. According to Hose (1878), the undertaking of publishing such a journal in a young colony (Straits Settlement) was a bold enterprise for a single individual as the journal was printed at his own expense. However, this journal which was then more popularly known as "*Logan's Journal*" was ably supported as contributors from all classes came forward. From the very beginning, that is 1847 till it ceased printing after 1862, Logan played the roles of the proprietor, publisher and editor of this first learned journal in the Straits Settlement. Apart from that, he himself was also the principal contributor of papers whereas others such as government officers, ecclesiastics, military men, naval men, lawyers, doctors, merchants, planters, Frenchmen, Germans, Dutchmen, Swiss and even a Chinaman also contributed much to the learned journal (Hose, 1878; Khoo, 1986). When it was first issued, it was published monthly until volume 7 after which it became a quarterly (Byrd, 1991). Altogether nine volumes were issued between 1847 and 1855. However, beginning from 1856, a new series was started to which new volume numbers were given (New series volume 1, 1857 to volume 4, part 1, 1862). It was not certain why Logan did not come out with any issue in 1858 and 1860-1861. The last volume of the journal included the contribution "*Handbook for Colonists in Tropical Australia*"

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Table 2: Ten Early Pre-independent Malaysian Scholarly English Periodicals

Rank	Publishing Institutions	Periodical Title	Year Issued
1	James Richardson Logan	Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia	1847
2	James Collins	Journal of Eastern Asia	1875
3	Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Singapore	Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society	1878
4	Gardens and Forest Department, Straits Settlement, Singapore	Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula	1891
5	Straits Medical Association, Singapore	Journal of the Straits Medical Association	1892
6	Perak Museum, Taiping, Perak	Perak Museum Notes	1893
7	Sarawak Museum, Kuching, Sarawak	Sarawak Musuem Journal	1911
8	Incorporated Society of Planters, Kuala Lumpur	The Planter	1920
9	Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur	Medical Bulletin	1923
10	Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur	Quarterly Journal of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya	1929

By George Windsor Earl (Reece, 1992). On the whole, the journal contributed much to the understanding of the ethnology, geography, history and literature of the Malay Peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak.

The next periodical started publishing twelve years after the demise of Logan's Journal is the *Journal of Eastern Asia* published by James Collins, the Secre-

tary and Librarian of the Raffles Library and Museum from July 1875. The cost of publishing this journal was wholly born by the editor himself, James Collins, trying to emulate the scholarly endeavour of Logan. In the first inaugural issue, he pointed out that there is a great need for information with respect to the Malayan States which once gained should be permanently recorded. He further

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added that this journal which will contain original and translated articles of interest on the Straits Settlements, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Malay Peninsula, Celebes, Philippines, Siam, and other countries embraced by the title of "Eastern Asia" will be published quarterly. The subjects covered by the journal were botany, zoology, geology, mineralogy, meteorology, geography and etc. Besides that, reviews of books, notes and queries, general scientific information and correspondence space was also allocated. However, sad to say, the next issue of the journal, which was supposed to be published in October, 1875 did not come into being (Cheeseman, 1959).

The third scholarly English periodical is the *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (JSBRAS)* started publishing from July 1878, a year after the formation of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in Singapore. The Society initially decided to publish semi-annually its journal depending at times on the number of contributions received. By the year 1922, it had already published a total of 86 volumes. In 1923, the Society's name was changed to Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and hence the journal's title was changed to *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* or *JMBRAS* in short. In 1964, the Society was again renamed Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society as a result of the formation of Malaysia in 1963. Therefore, again the name of the journal was changed, this time to *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*. It is to be noted that the journal has been published uninterrupted except for the

period 1942 to 1946 when the Japanese invaded the country. On the whole, *JMBRAS* is an established scholarly periodical dealing with such subjects as history, archaeology, natural history, literature, culture and anthropology pertaining to Malaya/Malaysia and the surrounding areas. The most recent issue of *JMBRAS* is volume 71, part 2 (no. 275) published in December 1998 indicating a publication history of 120 years, a rather incredible feat yet to be matched by any learned institution in Malaysia (Tiew, 1998b). *JMBRAS* is one the very few Malaysian scholarly periodicals to be indexed by numerous international indexing and abstracting services, namely *Biological Abstracts*, *Bibliography of Linguistics*, *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind*, *America : History and Life*, *Anthropological Literature Index* and *Historical Abstracts*.

The fourth early pre-independent Malaysian scholarly English periodical is the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Malay Peninsula* which was first issued in the month of April, 1891 by the Gardens and Forest Department, Straits Settlement. The first editor of this agricultural bulletin is none other than the famous Director of Botanic Gardens and Forests, H. N. Ridley of rubber fame. In the inaugural issue it is stated "It is proposed to publish from time to time, as occasion may serve, bulletins on subjects connected with agriculture and horticulture in the Malay Peninsula". However, it is noted the bulletins were published at irregular intervals due to unknown circumstances. Between 1901 and 1911, the bulletin assumed the name *Agricultural Bulletin*

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of the Straits and Federated Malay States which was to be published monthly. During 1912 to 1921, the Department of Agriculture published it as *Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States*. In 1922, the bulletin was renamed as *Malayan Agriculture Journal* and continued with that name till 1964. As with *JMBRAS*, the journal also suffered a break in its publication history for five years due to the Japanese's Occupation of Malaya. Later on, as a result of the formation of Malaysia in 1963, the journal changed the name to *Malaysian Agricultural Journal* and published quarterly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. On the whole, it is not much of an exaggeration to state that "the journal played an important role in the development of agriculture in this country". In March 1962, the Malay translation of selected articles of the journal appeared in *Majallah Pertanian* published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The most current issue of the *Malaysian Agricultural Journal* is Volume 55, No. 1, 1993. Currently, the journal is being indexed by *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *CAB Abstracts*, *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*, *Animal Breeding Abstracts*, *Bio-Control News and Information*, *Dairy Science Abstracts*, *Field Crop Abstracts*, *Food Science and Technology Abstracts*, *Helminthological Abstracts*, *Herbage Abstracts*, *Horticultural Abstracts*, *Index Veterinarius*, *Plant Breeding Abstracts*, *Review of Applied Entomology*, *Rural Recreation Tourism Abstracts*, *Review of Plant Pathology*, *Soils and Fertilizers*, *Tropical Oil Seeds Abstracts*, *Veterinary Bulletin*, *Weed Abstracts*, and *World*

Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts.

The fifth in the list is *Journal of the Straits Medical Association*, the first medical journal to be published from the region in 1892. This journal was the organ of the Straits Medical Association, which was formed in March 1890. By 1894, five issues of the journal had appeared whereupon the journal ceased publication as a result of the affiliation of the Straits Medical Association with the British Medical Association. In January 1904, the journal was revived with the title, *Journal of the British Medical Association, Malaya Branch*, with the initiative of Dr. McDowell. However, this publication did not survive long due to various circumstances. In 1911, again an attempt was made to revive the publication under the name *Malayan Medical Journal*. On the whole, no less than eight quarterly numbers were issued till 1912 when it again stopped publication due to the lack of contributions or editorial problems. After 1912, there seemed to be no new issue of the journal until 1926 when the *Malayan Medical Journal* started publishing again. The journal continued to publish under the same title until 1937 when it was renamed as *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the British Medical Association* whose last issue was dated March 1941. During 1942-1945, its publication was interrupted. From 1946, it continued publication under the title, *Medical Journal of Malaya* until volume 26, no. 4, June 1972. Beginning with volume 27, no. 1, September, 1972, the journal was renamed, *Medical Journal of Malaysia*, a name

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which still continues. The latest issue of the journal is volume 54, no.1, March, 1999. Various international indexing and abstracting services such as, *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *CAB Abstracts*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Index Medicus*, *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*, *Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Diseases*, *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature*, *Index to Dental Literature*, *Helminthological Abstracts*, *Protozool Abstracts*, *Review of Applied Entomology*, *Review of Medical And Veterinary Mycology*, *Soyabean Abstracts*, *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* and *Medline* index the journal.

The sixth Malaysian scholarly English periodical included in this study is the *Perak Museum Notes* published by the Perak Museum Taiping between 1893-1898. From 1899 to 1904 onwards, there is no mention of any publication of the *Perak Museum Notes*. With the amalgamation of the Perak Museum and the Selangor Museum in 1904, the *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums* was born in 1905 and continued till 1941, as a continuation of the *Perak Museum Notes*. Like many other Malaysian journals, this journal also ceased publication during Japanese occupation of Malaya (1941-1945) and did not revive till 1953. The successor to the journal started publishing annually from 1954 by the National Museum with the name, *Federation Museums Journal*, *New Series*. It did not publish in 1956, 1958-1960, 1986-1990 and 1992-1996 due to lack of articles. Most of the contents of the journal were devoted to ethnological, anthropological and archaeological studies. After volume 31

New Series, 1991, the journal assumed a new name, *Malaysia Museums Journal*, with volume 32, 1997. The most current issue is volume 34, 1998. *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind* indexes the journal.

The next periodical is the *Sarawak Museum Journal*, which is published annually by the Sarawak Museum, Kuching, and its maiden issue appeared in 1911 under the editorship of Major J. C. Moulton, Curator of Sarawak Museum. However, by 1937 only 15 issues of the journal appeared. The main reason behind this is the lack of support received by the journal. In the 1937 issue, the editor himself contributed 147 pages out of a total of 180 pages. In May 1949 the journal resumed its publication with volume V, no. 1 (*New Series*), no. 16 (*Old Series*). From then on to date, the journal has been regularly publishing its annual issue containing many scholarly articles on history, natural history, archaeology, ethnology, etc., of Sarawak and neighbouring regions. The forthcoming issue of the journal is volume 51, no. 72 & 73, 1997. Presently, the *Sarawak Museum Journal* is indexed by *Geographical Abstracts* and *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind*.

The eighth in the listing is *The Planter*, a monthly publication issued by the Incorporated Society of Planters. The first issue of this journal came out in August 1920. Ever since, *The Planter* is issued monthly by the Society without fail except for the period 1942-1946 when the Japanese Army conquered Malaya. The last issue of the journal published before

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Japanese occupation is volume 22, no. 10, 1941. After the war, volume 23, no.1, January 1947 was published. The latest issue is volume 74, no. 871, October 1998. *The Planter* includes original articles, , papers relating to the Society's Technical Education Scheme, other contributions of more general interest to the planting profession and reproduce articles on tropical agriculture and plantation management. It is currently indexed by *CAB Abstracts*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Abstracts on Tropical Agriculture*, *Agricultural Engineering Abstracts*, *Agroforest Abstracts*, *Current Advances in Ecological Sciences*, *Field Crop Abstracts*, *Geographical Abstracts*, *Herbage Abstracts*, *Horticultural Abstracts*, *Rural Recreation Tourism Abstracts*, *Review of Plant Pathology*, *Soils and Fertilizers*, *Tropical Oil Seeds Abstracts*, *Weed Abstracts*, and *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*.

The ninth periodical is the *Medical Bulletin*, published by the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur. The institute brought out the bulletin in 1923. This first bulletin by A. T. Stanton, Director of Government Laboratories, Federated Malay States was entitled "Vitamins and Diet". The following year, the bulletin was renamed as *Bulletins from the Institute for Medical Research*. The publication of the bulletins was rather irregular, varying from a minimum of one to a maximum of six per year, between 1923-1941. Like the other earlier periodicals, the bulletin ceased publication during 1942-1948 and resumed publication in 1949 with the same title but with a new series. The last issue of the bulletin is no. 23 "Dengue

Fever Studies in Malaysia" edited by A. Rudnick , T. W. Lim and J. L. Ireland dated 1986. From 1987 to date, it is not clear whether the Institute for Medical Research has come out with any other bulletin. The search conducted in the IMR Library did not provide any indication as to the publication of any issue of the bulletin thereafter.

The last scholarly English periodical in the list is *Quarterly Journal of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya*. The maiden issue was published in 1929, under the editorship of B. J. Eaton, Head of the Chemical Division, Rubber Institute of Malaya. In 1931, a new title, *Journal of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya*, was adopted as a result of the decision of the Board as the journal has limited itself to publishing the results of investigation carried out by members of its staff approved by the Editorial Committee. The institute continued to publish this scholarly journal until September 1941 when the Japanese's occupation of Malaya interrupted its publication. Publication of the journal resumed in August 1947 as volume 12, no. 262. However from 1964, the journal decided to publish relevant contributions from authors outside the Institute making it a renowned periodical on natural rubber research. In 1974 the journal was renamed as *Journal of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia*. From 1986 till 1997, the journal adopted the title *Journal of Natural Rubber Research* considering the fact that the institute is "the largest organisation of its kind in the world devoted to research and development concerning natural rubber" (Soosai and Kaw, 1975). As of 1st January 1998, the Rubber

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Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM), Malaysian Rubber Exchange and Licensing Board (MRELB) and Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board (MRRDB) were amalgamated into the Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB), occasioning thereby a further change in title to *Journal of Rubber Research*, to portray its new corporate image. The first issue after the amalgamation is volume 1, no.1, 1st quarter, 1998. Now, the journal is to be published as quarterly in March, June, September and December each year. On the whole, the journal publish results of research and authoritative reviews on all aspects of natural rubber. One very special and outstanding feature of this journal is the fact about the annual award for best paper submitted to each volume which carries a cash prize of RM1000 and a certificate, something not found in any other Malaysian scholarly journals as special recognition to scientific writings (Tiew, 1998a). The most current issue is volume 1, no.3, 3rd quarter, 1998. The journal is being indexed by *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *CAB Abstracts*, *Current Contents*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Agroforest Abstracts*, *Current Advances in Ecological Science*, *Horticultural Abstracts*, *International Polymer Science and Technology*, *Plant Breeding Abstracts*, *Review of Applied Entomology*, *RAPRA Abstracts*, *Review of Plant Pathology*, *Rural Recreation Tourism Abstracts*, *Soils and Fertilizers*, *Weed Abstracts*, and *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts* .

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study can be summarised as below:

1. The scholarly English periodicals existed in Malaysia as far back as 1847. However, the number of such periodicals was few and limited in the nineteenth century. The number of scholarly periodicals grew over the years after independence, when more local universities, research institutions and learned associations and societies began to emerge.
2. Of the ten periodicals five were published by institutions located at Singapore, three in Kuala Lumpur, and one each in Taiping and Kuching. That is not surprising considering the fact that Singapore was the administration centre of the British and the most developed during the colonial era.
3. Of the institutions publishing these periodicals, five were agencies or research bodies established by the government, three were learned associations or societies. Two journals were being published through individual efforts. It is most interesting to note that an individual, J. F. Logan who once resided and worked both in Penang and Singapore, founded the earliest scholarly journal – *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, popularly called *Logan's Journal*. *Journal of Eastern Asia* came out due to the individual efforts of James Collins.
4. Most of the scholarly periodicals are being indexed by either one or more international indexing and abstracting services such as *Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Diseases (1)*, *Abstracts on Tropical Agriculture (1)*, *Agricultural Engineering Abstracts (1)*, *Agro-forest Abstracts (2)*, *America : History and Life (1)*, *Animal Breeding Abstracts (1)*, *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum*

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of Mankind (3), *Anthropological Literature Index* (1), *Bibliography of Linguistics* (1), *Bio-Control News and Information* (1), *Biological Abstracts* (4), *CAB Abstracts* (4), *Chemical Abstracts* (3), *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature* (1), *Current Advances in Ecological Science* (2), *Current Contents* (1), *Dairy Science Abstracts* (1), *Excerpta Medica* (3), *Field Crop Abstracts* (2), *Food Science and Technology Abstracts* (1), *Geographical Abstracts* (2), *Helminthological Abstracts* (2), *Herbage Abstracts* (2), *Historical Abstracts* (1), *Horticultural Abstracts* (3), *Index Medicus* (1), *Index to Dental Literature* (1), *Index Veterinarius* (1), *International Polymer Science and Technology* (1), *Medline* (1), *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews* (2), *Plant Breeding Abstracts* (2), *Protozoal Abstracts* (1), *RAPRA Abstracts* (1), *Review of Medical And Veterinary Mycology* (1), *Review of Applied Entomology* (3), *Review of Plant Pathology* (3), *Rural Recreation Tourism Abstracts* (3), *Soils and Fertilizers* (3), *Soyabean Abstracts* (1), *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* (1), *Tropical Oil Seeds Abstracts* (2), *Veterinary Bulletin* (1), *Weed Abstracts* (3), and *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts* (3).

5. Another interesting fact is the interruption in publication of the periodicals during 1942-1945 due to World War II, when the Japanese's Army occupied Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak. Other probable reasons are lack of articles and lack of fund, which hindered the progress of these periodicals.

6. All the scholarly periodicals also underwent changes in their titles many a times due to various reasons particularly

the change in the political setup of the region except for *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, *Journal of Eastern Asia*, *The Planter* and *Sarawak Museum Journal* which stuck to their original title since their maiden issue. With the change in title, most of the periodicals also had new cover page to portray its new image.

7. Most of the periodicals are still in print except for *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* (last issue appeared in 1862), *Journal of Eastern Asia* (last issue in 1875), *Bulletin from the Institute for Medical Research* (last issue appeared in 1986) and *Malaysian Agricultural Journal* (last issue 1993). As for *Malaysian Agricultural Journal*, since 1993, there was no further issue due to budget-constraint.

8. It is most unfortunate that the collection of the periodicals being discussed are not being given proper care, attention and are not being well-preserved for future scholars by the Malaysian libraries. This is the case especially for the 19th century periodicals, which are sometimes found only in one or two libraries and not elsewhere. During the study, it was found that pages of these early periodicals were brittle, loose, torn, tattered and in danger of being destroyed by silverfish, cockroaches, mud wasps and borers. Also, most of the periodicals, which were bound, often did not include the cover page or title page of the periodical. Hence, it is rather difficult at times for those interested in studying certain historical development of these periodicals, for example, to ascertain the changes in the periodical's cover page or title page. Some serious efforts must be made to maintain these periodicals

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collection, which should be well-preserved for posterity.

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