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Nobel aspirations

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UNIVERSITI Malaysia Sabah believes that its students can and will excel in their fields. Often, however, they need a little encouragement and inspiration to believe in themselves first.

That belief led to an agreement to set up a separate reference section at the university's library, to focus on Nobel laureates.

"We wanted to inspire and motivate students to help them believe they too can be whatever they strive to be," said chief librarian Che Salmah Mehamood.

The library will soon be equipped with a collection of works on Nobel Prize winners in six categories: chemistry, economics, literature, medicine, peace and physics.

The collection will not only feature books, but biographies, writings, articles, journals, VCDs and other material.

"Students who look up to them can now study and read about their heroes, and indirectly find out how they too can achieve the same kind of success.

"It will be able to help our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in realising his aspiration to see Malaysians receiving the award," she added.

The materials will be placed in a special "reference only" section.

However, students and library members are welcome to use the specially-renovated area, which is created with a different, more sophisticated and scholarly atmosphere to mark its prominence.

"The construction is almost complete. We just need to put in the finishings, furnishings and fixtures and it will be ready," she said.

While a significant amount of books and materials are available, more material is being sourced.

So far, there are more than 600 books and other references to famous figures.

There is material available on Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, Aung San Suu Kyi, the Dalai Lama, Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling, John Steinbeck, Abdus Salam and Amartya Sen.

"To further back our vision, we will in future, invite some of the prize winners to come to our campus to honor our collection. We know that will definitely boost morale and inspire our students."