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National Library eyeing more e-books for readers

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Library Malaysia (PNM) will undertake information communication technology (ICT) transformation as a step to create a knowledgeable society, in keeping with the times.

Director-general Datuk Raslin Abu Bakar said the programme, to be fully implemented next year, would include the transformation of physical facilities, activities and material collection following increasing number of its visitors in cyber space through its website.

"PNM is moving towards increasing its reading materials electronically, such as through e-book and the computer, as readers are now exposed to sophisticated ICT.

"We've always kept abreast with developments in the library field throughout the world and our standard is on par with that of foreign libraries," he said after launching the

"1Malaysia Children's Festival: I Am A Loyal Reader" at the PNM auditorium here yesterday.

Describing reading as the window to knowledge, Raslin said PNB would also be upgrading its reading area to make reading more comfortable and relaxing and to attract more people.

He said that up to November this year, 3.91 million reading materials, including 312,018 specifically for children, were available at PNM, with the latest books in the market constantly added to the collection for the convenience of visitors.



National Library Malaysia director-general Datuk Raslin Abu Bakar says it will also be upgrading its reading area

On the one-day festival, Raslin said it was aimed at encouraging the search for knowledge among children through reading and as a platform for book lovers and families to be engaged in useful activities during the school holidays.

He said from January until November this year, children's membership of PNM rose by 3.9 per cent to 155,501 from 149,661 last year.

Raslin said the inaugural festival would be made an annual affair following good response from children and their parents, and

would be implemented at all state libraries.