

UniMAP library to be world-class
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EMULATE THE BEST: University resource centres should be equipped with materials, physical as well as virtual, that cover every aspect of knowledge

KANGAR: UNIVERSITY libraries should be equipped with materials, physical as well as virtual, that cover every aspect of knowledge.

To be a world-class library, the Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail said libraries in institutions of higher learning should also be customer-focused and not to limit itself to only core education subjects.

During his speech at the recent naming ceremony for Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)'s library at the Pauh Putra campus, near here, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin -- the university's chancellor -- said the newly-launched library should emulate the Library of Congress in the United States and the British Library, where the resource centres provide reference documents to all libraries throughout the world.

"As a library, it also needs to store information pertaining to the nation's history and heritage. Do not be too focused on the academic field. All information contained in this library can and should be widely accessible.

"A very conducive environment should also be made available for the users. The designs and their surroundings, including that of landscape, should be the 'talk of the town'," he said, citing the example of the Stuttgart City Library in Germany.

The university library, which houses more than 43,000 printed material, has been named the Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Library.

It is the first Malaysian library to use the WorldCat Local, a search engine that allows access to a global catalog of library collections.

Later, Syed Faizuddin who was accompanied by the Raja Puan Muda of Perlis, Tuanku Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalil, visited UniMAP's Fm radio station located in the library building.

Also present at the event was Higher Education Department director-general, Professor Datuk Dr Rujhan Mustaffa; Kazakhstan Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr Beibut Atamkulov; and UniMAP vice-chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Kamarudin Hussin.

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