

An international-scale language library to open in Paris

Francis Richard

BULAC

[វិទ្យាស្ថាន] [جامعية] [மொழிகள] [+∴O∴]

Bibliothèque universitaire
des langues et civilisations

The *Bibliothèque universitaire des Langues et civilisations* (BULAC) (Languages and Civilisations University Library) is to open its doors in Autumn 2011 in the new premises of the languages and civilisations centre, in what is now referred to as "Paris's new Latin Quarter", in the 13th *arrondissement*. The BULAC is making this location its new home—close to the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* and the new campus of the *Université de Paris Diderot*—with the *Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales* (INALCO) (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations).

The BULAC is a radically modern library which will be open to students and researchers, with seating for 360 persons in the research area, and more than 200,000 volumes freely available. The rooms can be booked for small groups as well as for individual use, and will be available for use by researchers 24 hours a day. The aim was to create a tool suited to the particular needs of people conducting research from France and other parts of the world, providing them with comprehensive documentation on languages and civilisations at a single location.

BULAC's administrative status itself makes it a unique establishment as it is a collaboration of eight partners,* bringing together universities, libraries and research centres which have consigned their document collections to the library. After its opening to the public, the second phase of the project will focus on opening premises close to the library to be used exclusively by research working groups.

The collections housed by the BULAC make up around two million documents, 60% of which are in their original languages. The number of languages represented is far greater than the hundred or so languages taught at the INALCO, totalling, as it does, around 350. As well as these works in and on different languages, the documents concern social sciences and cultural studies. All collections are envisaged to grow through purchases, donations and exchanges. Provisions are being made for a gradual increase in digital resources.

We are confident that BULAC will prove to be a vital resource for researchers, first of all through its Russian collections, but equally for its materials on Indian, African, Japanese and Chinese studies, as well as for a variety of language-related areas which are not covered by other libraries in France. BULAC will also become the home of an important collection of periodicals, including a number of old and very rare journals.

The old books, including the historic collection of the *École des langues orientales* (School of Oriental Languages), and the rare manuscripts and documents, will be available for reference in a specially fitted 'Reserve' room, and will be assigned to areas not open to the public. The BULAC collection is hugely valuable for the history of the study of languages and that of oriental printing methods.

BULAC, which will be open to both researchers and to the general public, will endeavour to meet the increasing need for documents pertaining to linguistic fields which are unavailable in most other French libraries. It is currently drawing up agreements with several important establishments in France, including the BnF (National Library of France), but it is also desiring to establish partnerships and work together with Europe's biggest libraries with similar areas of interest.

Francis Richard
Scientific director at the BULAC
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Note

Among the libraries consigning their collections to the BULAC are the *Bibliothèque interuniversitaire des Langues orientales* (BIULO) (Inter-university Library of Oriental Languages), which is the biggest contributor, the *Bibliothèque d'études iraniennes J. Darmesteter* (Iranian Studies Library), the Indian collections of J. Bloch, M. Biarreau and C. Vaudeville from the *École pratique des hautes études* (EPHE) (School of Advanced Studies), the library of the Centre d'études slaves (Slavic Studies Centre), the Sorbonne, and the Korean collections from the *Université Paris Diderot*. The BULAC collections will also comprise other major oriental collections from, among others, the *École des Hautes études en sciences sociales* (EHESS) (School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences), and the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* (EFEO) (French School of Far East Studies).

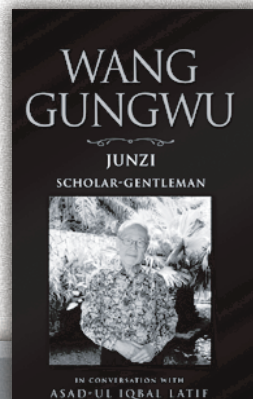
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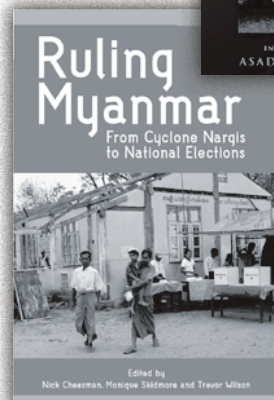
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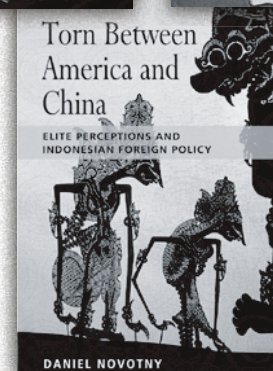
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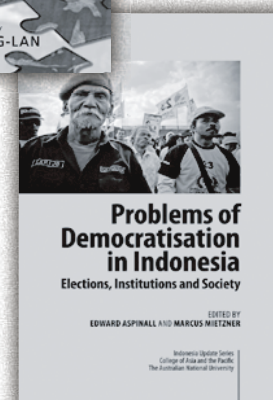
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Book publishing in Cambodia

Kheng Pytou Kethya

WHEN THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT opened the country to a free market in 1993, new possibilities emerged for authors to transform their manuscripts into printed books available for sale on the market, but the manuscripts that emerged were mostly fictions. Educational materials in the humanities and the social sciences were lacking. The country was suffering from a near total absence of academic human resources as a result of the past civil conflict, while the few communist-era materials and literatures available were, for the most part, obsolete.

The kind of academic materials needed were only available in foreign languages. Books in English or French books were too expensive and beyond the abilities of most Cambodian readers to understand. In addition, the existing capacities in publishing and translation in Cambodia were—and still are—scattered and fragmented. Until a few years ago, no real translation capacities existed for academic publications. The country suffered from a chronic lack of publishing houses, editors, writers and authors, particularly at the academic level. This situation had a negative impact on the fast-growing population of undergraduate and graduate students and academics flocking to the newly opened universities.

There are still many specific difficulties that keep the Cambodian publishing sector today very fragile and, in comparison with neighboring countries, very expensive:

- Most of the printing materials are imported from other countries; not even paper is locally produced
- The highest possible market price is US\$7 per copy
- The pool of professional editors and translators is very limited
- The national distribution systems remain erratic
- Many Cambodians still see no need, or lack the means, to buy books

Nokorwat Publishing

Nokorwat Publishing was established in July 2010 under the management of the Nokorwat Media Center, which combines a group of experienced Cambodian professionals originating from different local academic and cultural (often non-profit) publishers such as Sastra Publishing, Nou Hach Journal, Center for Khmer Studies, Reyum Institute, and the Buddhist

Institute. The parties came together with the shared vision of filling the need for good quality books in the Khmer language published in Cambodia. Their objective is to work closely with authors and publishers, publishers and the readers. Nokorwat Publishing's mission is:

- To provide education services that allow all readers to experience learning successes and become life-long learners and contributing members of society.
- To publish social sciences and humanity materials that are useful and valuable for advanced research in Cambodian higher education.
- To produce books with a high technical publishing quality, at prices that are accessible to common researchers.
- To encourage authors to write manuscripts about Cambodia in Khmer and English.
- To improve reading habits among Cambodian peoples.
- To promote a full-scale development of book publishing activities in Cambodia, from writing through production to distribution.

We aim to act as a strong and capable private institution, cooperating with local professionals and responding to Cambodia's development challenges.

Nokorwat publishing is a relatively big publisher that can produce variety of materials: children's books, comics, fiction, non-fiction and research documents. Beside those publications we also offer a selection of high quality materials translated from foreign languages into Khmer, although this is difficult because of the high cost of translation work.

We are confident that the vision of Nokorwat Publishing will continue to transform the Cambodian publishing environment. In this way, we hope to contribute to making Cambodian society a learned one, able to adapt to the information and knowledge challenges in the world of today.

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