

Transforming University Libraries Leadership & Innovation Programme (TULLIP)



National University of Singapore



Location

Singapore, serving
Association of Southeast
Asian Nations (ASEAN) and
other Asian countries



Target group

Early- and mid-career
academic librarians,
particularly from
under-resourced
institutions



Budget

\$32,000 (2025)



SDGs

SDG 4 (targets 4.3 and 4.4)
and SD10 (target 10.2)

Synopsis

Strengthened leadership and digital innovation capacity among academic librarians across ASEAN countries and beyond.

Program description

Academic libraries are evolving rapidly in response to digital transformation, AI and changing research workflows. Yet many early-career librarians in under-resourced universities across Southeast Asia lack access to structured leadership development and exposure to innovation practices in leading research institutions.

Our partnership with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Libraries addresses this gap through the Transforming University Libraries Leadership & Innovation Program (TULLIP), an intensive five-day program delivered at NUS with a focus on ASEAN member countries. Through workshops, experiential learning and case-based collaboration, we equip librarians with leadership, digital and partnership-building skills to better support research, teaching and learning within their institutions. The Elsevier Foundation provided seed funding to jump start the program and provided fellowship support to librarians from under-resourced institutions based in Research4Life eligible countries, enabling broader participation in TULLIP.



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Advancing human progress together

Goals

- Build leadership and innovation capacity among early- and mid-career librarians in ASEAN, Asia and beyond.
- Reduce inequalities in access to international professional development opportunities.
- Strengthen librarians' ability to support research, teaching, and learning in a digitally evolving environment.
- Foster a sustainable, pan-Asian network of library leaders committed to collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Activities and milestones

- Delivered two five-day TULLIP workshops at NUS (6–10 January 2025; 30 June–4 July 2025)
- Received 198 total applications across both intakes, demonstrating strong regional interest; selected 27 participants for the January 2025 cohort and 28 participants for the July 2025 cohort
- Awarded 32 TULLIP Fellowships across both intakes, including 22 funded by the Elsevier Foundation
- Delivered program modules on leading transformational change, AI, digital transformation and innovation, library partnerships for education and research and libraries as living labs (collections, infrastructure and placemaking)

Looking ahead

With 198 applications received for 55 available places across two intakes, demand for TULLIP significantly exceeded capacity, underscoring the need for continued leadership development opportunities for librarians in under-resourced institutions. Building on the success of the 2025 cohorts, NUS Libraries will continue offering TULLIP annually from 2026 to sustain and deepen its impact.

With additional regional institutional and philanthropic support secured since launch, the program is positioned for long-term sustainability. The growing TULLIP community will continue to strengthen regional collaboration, knowledge exchange and leadership capacity across academic libraries, contributing to more resilient and future-ready research ecosystems.



“TULLIP has been one of the best training courses I’ve ever attended. It helped me further shift my perspective, see beyond the surface, and appreciate the profession more.”

Roana Marie Flores

Associate American Corner Librarian,
De La Salle University, Philippines

