

Intellectual Treasure Trove

*The National Library announces
A compilation of titles by the hundreds of thousands
So even though writers may pass away
Their knowledge remains to befriend us.
~ Pin Malakul, April 27*

In 1905, King Chulalongkorn, Rama V, established Bangkok's Royal Vajiranana Library, which is now known as the National Library. Over the years, countless people from kings and members of the royal family to government officials and the general public have donated books to the famous institution. King Prajadhipok, Rama VII, donated hundreds of thousands of books from the private library of King Rama VI. In tribute to the king, the National Library named this section the Phra Mongkut Room. M.C. Absorn Saman Kitiyakara donated over 1,000 books in Pali Sanskrit from the library of Prince Kitiyakara Voralaksana, Prince of Chandaburi. These are also kept in the Phra Mongkut Room.

The books are eminently capable of relaying historical events from each period and lessening the need to memorize or recount by word of mouth in the ancient tradition. In order to learn more, readers can pick and choose the titles that interest them.

Books can be divided into many categories: literature, history, linguistics, and more. They can be listed chronologically or according to subject or even popularity.

Literature from the reign of King Rama VI touches upon Thailand's role in World War I. During the reign of King Rama VII, the country changed from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy; Bangkok celebrated its 150th anniversary, which was marked by the opening of the Memorial Bridge.

During the reign of King Rama VIII, the country suffered an economic downturn as a result of World War II. However, the people still looked to King Ananda Mahidol as a focal point for reassurance.

The reign of King Rama IX saw the country develop and prosper in every field and was marked by numerous events not only the king's countless royal projects to help his people but also the political crisis of October 14, 1973; the Asian tsunami; and the 60th anniversary of the king's accession to the throne.

During the present reign, the king has ensured the happiness of the people by organizing the Oon Ai Rak [Warmth of Love] fair. The public has also shown its generosity by volunteering, and the country in fact, the global society has come together to help team members of the Wild Boar Academy.

Therefore, recording historical events in the form of books helps keep everything in our memory. Over the past 113 years, the National Library has had the responsibility of being the treasure trove of the country's important titles and will continue to do so in the future.

*Seeing and noting help to keep the record straight
It helps you learn and remember
Any slight of memory can be redeemed
Through the accuracy of our notes
~ Prince Devavong Varopakarn*