

Sep 13, 2007

Library Board archives Al-Qaeda papers

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HUNDREDS of documents on terrorism, including original Al-Qaeda papers from Afghanistan, will be preserved and archived by the National Library Board (NLB).

The information will be accessible to relevant agencies and researchers for the purpose of threat assessment and counter-terrorism studies.

This comes after the NLB and the Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday.

Dean of RSIS Barry Desker said: 'As international terrorism increasingly becomes a significant global security threat, we want to promote public education in terrorism and enable the public to make sense of the global developments in this area.'

All documents are provided by the RSIS' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research.

The centre has been collecting the material, which gives insights into how terrorist groups operate, since 2001.

The NLB will also provide the public access to information on political violence and terrorism through its libraries and digital channels.

The information includes lists of terrorist personalities and the dates of various acts of terror.

In addition, the NLB and RSIS will be holding exhibitions and talks at NLB libraries from November.

NLB chief executive N. Varaprasad said: 'The best response to acts of political violence and terrorism prevalent in these uncertain times is neither paranoia nor apathy, but sound judgment and understanding based on reliable sources of information.'