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### EXPLOREVIC 2008

Students from Indonesia interested in travelling out of town and visiting some country regions are invited to meet and talk to groups of school students about contemporary Indonesia or their research. Thousands of students across Victoria study Indonesian. Students studying Indonesian at a senior level must complete an oral examination during which they report on a detailed study they have completed on Indonesia. They need sources of oral information. That could be you! For further information, contact Prue Price, Indonesian Language Advisor, The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, <[prue.prudence.r@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:prue.prudence.r@edumail.vic.gov.au)>.

### The Australia-Netherlands Research Collaboration

Funding is available to convene academic workshops focussing on Southeast Asia. Applications are invited from Dutch and Australian scholars specialising in the study of Southeast Asia to convene an academic workshop in the period 2008–2012. The workshop must feature collaboration between Australian and Dutch scholars, and must actively involve scholars/experts from Southeast Asia. Workshops may take place in The Netherlands, Australia or Southeast Asia. Each collaboration must be led by an Australian and a Dutch academic leader, and when applicable, by a Southeast Asian academic leader. Administrative guidance with respect to the workshops will be provided by the ANRC. For further information, contact Helen McMartin, Email: <[Helen.McMartin@anu.edu.au](mailto:Helen.McMartin@anu.edu.au)>



photo courtesy of Joe Scott

### Melbourne Abroad Scholarships in Language Study

Scholarships are offered to high achieving undergraduate language students for study overseas. For students travelling before 31 October 2008, application is due on Friday 14 March 2008. For more, contact Sally Jones at <[sally1@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sally1@unimelb.edu.au)>

### Singapore Graduate Forum 2008

24 – 25 July 2008. The Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) invites applications from postgraduate students who are engaged in research on Southeast Asia to attend the 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia Studies. Abstracts of papers are due 16 May 2008. This two-day workshop will be organised thematically. Registration fees and Singapore expenses will be covered for those whose abstracts are accepted for presentation. Contact: Ms Valerie Yeo, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 469A Tower Block, #10-01, Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259770, T: (65) 6516 5279, F: (65) 6779 1428, E: <[valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg](mailto:valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg)>

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## A Tale of Three Cultures



photo by A. Heryanto

*Studying a foreign language in the medium of one's mother tongue is difficult enough for most of us. Yet for Yukari Kaji, studying Indonesian language and culture in English required that she juggled three cultures and three languages at the same time. But as she told INDONEWS, it was a remarkably rewarding experience.*

**You are one of our very best students. You speak like a native speaker. What's your secret to such success?**

*I always try to communicate with many Indonesians. In the beginning I made many mistakes. But I always kept one phrase in my mind "Mistake is a teacher." I learned a lot from talking with my Indonesian friends, who always kindly helped me. Studying together with Indonesian friends who were learning the Japanese language was also a useful way to improve my proficiency. Lots of Japanese say that Indonesian is an easy language. Usually they compare it with English. They say it is easy because they're only considering the grammar. When I taught Indonesian, I noticed that some people had difficulty in pronouncing certain sounds. Like /l/ and /r/. In the beginning I had many troubles. I used to be laughed at by some Indonesians. I had difficulty with /n/ and /m/ and /ng/.*

**Have you studied other foreign languages that had assisted your successful study of Indonesian?**

*English. I'm a graduate of International Relations, so it was very strongly encouraged that I study English. My lecturers and the chancellor at my university would always say: "You're from the International Relations faculty, so, you must master English, because English is the international language." But, in the beginning, I couldn't accept such a statement. At the time, I thought, "Why should Japanese always follow the US?" So, I thought, it would be beneficial to master a foreign language other than English. An Asian language, for example. So, I concentrated first on Indonesian.*

**Why did you choose Indonesian? There are many other Asian languages.**

*Sure. When I was a university student, I thought it was necessary for more Japanese*

to have a better understanding on the Southeast Asian countries, as not so many Japanese people know much about these countries even though Japan always claims that South East Asian countries are our important partners. I was really fortunate that my university offered Indonesian language as a second foreign language. Our faculty offered several Asian languages: Mandarin, Korean and Indonesian. I wasn't interested in European languages. Around this time, I read several books on foreign languages and about Asia. I read one book about Indonesia's relationship with Japan. There's no real deep reason why I chose Indonesian, but I was just interested in Indonesia. There are already a lot of Japanese who can speak Mandarin, so, I thought I'd learn Indonesian, which wasn't so common. There were about 10 other students in my year level.

### **Is Melbourne appealing at all to Japanese students?**

Well, to speak frankly, if Japanese students want to study in a country where English is used, the first country they want to go to is the US. If not to the US, then to the UK. Many Japanese think that Australians have a funny accent or way of speaking English. On the other hand, many Japanese also have a positive impression of Australia – because it is famous for being a destination for tourists. If people are going overseas for academic reasons, the main places are the U.S. or England. But Australia is well-known with Indonesian studies as it is geographically close to Indonesia. There are a lot of prominent scholars in Indonesian studies and many Indonesian students to communicate with. It was the perfect option for me.

### **How difficult or easy was it for you to complete your study at The University of Melbourne, and particularly at MIALS (now called Asia Institute)?**

The learning environments in Japan and Australia are actually quite different. In Japan, students are supposed to listen passively to what professors say and take notes. However, in Australia, students are supposed to actively give their opinions in class. In the beginning of my study at the University of Melbourne, I found it was difficult because of such cultural differences and my limited English ability at that time. Reading a lot of books and articles, and writing essays in English were also difficult tasks for me. However, I tried my best every day and gradually became used to them. The Language Partner Program offered by Melbourne University also helped me a lot with improving my proficiency in both speaking and writing in English.

### **What are some of the most memorable moments from your time in Melbourne as a student of Indonesian from Japan?**

There were so many. If I must mention only one thing, I'd say the opportunity to be a guest speaker on the SBS radio program. I was invited because the Radio staff were curious about me, a Japanese studying In-

donesian in Australia. They probably wanted to know how I saw Indonesia as a Japanese woman from Australia. On the radio program, I talked in Bahasa Indonesia about my research conducted in Indonesia on Indonesian NGO activities providing basic education for street children in Jakarta and Yogyakarta. I also talked about the relationship between Indonesia and Japan. It was a valuable and enjoyable experience.

### **In Japan, are there many activities related to Indonesia?**

Sometimes there are. For example, the Indonesian embassy sometimes holds events. Before I came here I lived in Kanazawa, which is a city in the province of Ishikawa. Kanazawa is about a one-hour flight northwest from Tokyo. Every year there is an international festival, with stalls and food from all over the world, including Indonesia. In Japan when there are international film festivals, some Indonesian films will be shown. But, there hasn't yet been an exclusively Indonesian film festival. But there are some Indonesian restaurants in Tokyo.

### **It must have been difficult for you to practice your Indonesian when you were in Japan?**

Yes. I had to really look for opportunities to practice. So, what I did was organise a group of about 20 students. I formed a Southeast Asian Study Group. And we met up with Indonesians who lived near the university. I organised opportunities for myself and other students to speak with them.

### **Fantastic. When you were doing this, were your parents or friends surprised?**

My friends who had absolutely no contact with Indonesia would always ask "why". Some would also ask where Indonesia was. Most people would know Bali. People would ask questions like, "is there electricity in Indonesia? Do Indonesians use computers?" Questions like this would really surprise me.

### **Do you think Australians sufficiently understand the difficulties foreign students face, and are they willing to help?**

From my personal experience, some people helped me. I think people helped me because they were also studying Indonesian. I think it was because they already had an understanding of Asian culture. At Uni the staff at the International Office were helpful enough. There was one sentence I liked, which I saw when I first started my orientation - "help us to help you". This gave me the impression that there was no problem in asking for assistance. If I needed someone to consult with, there would be no problem in going there. In general, they were very helpful and they gave clear information. In regards to being in class, there was an Australian girl who was helpful to me. She said if I wasn't sure about anything I should just ask her. She was also taking Indonesian studies.

**Recently, we met a Japanese student in Melbourne. She's very kind and she**

**looked very sociable. She is eager to meet and mingle with Australians, but complained that it was very difficult. Did you ever have such a problem?**

*No. I had numerous Australian friends. I didn't see the point in just socialising with other Japanese. What would be the point in being in Australia and just socialising with other Japanese? When I had an Australian friend, I would always ask, "can I also meet some of your friends?" So, I made an effort. If one is passive, nothing would happen. Asian students, or Japanese students need to be active if they want to get to know local students.*

**How much have you practiced Indonesian since you left Melbourne?**

*After I left Melbourne, I got a job in a Japanese non-profit organization and was sent to their Jakarta Office. There I practiced Indonesian by communicating with my Indonesian friends and office mates every day. Reading newspapers and writing documents in Indonesian was also a part of my day to day activities at that time.*



photo by A. Heryanto

**Can you tell us some more about your past and future positions in Jakarta?**

*I worked for a Japanese non-profitable organization, and I was in charge of a Japanese Aid Grant for Human Resource Development program for about two years. That program provides scholarships to Indonesian government officials to take a Masters course in Japan. Then I took an exam for the Department of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and am currently working at the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia as an advisor/researcher on Student and Cultural Exchange between Indonesia and Japan.*

**What has it been like coming back to Jakarta?**

*Ah, it's been easier. My husband has spent more time here than me. He's worked here for ten years. For diplomats, they are sent to Indonesia to learn Indonesian. So, he has studied Indonesian in several Indonesian universities. It was a little difficult looking for work. I had to take a test. I'm working in the cultural exchange field. I was accepted by the Japanese Department of Foreign Affairs. I have a contract for two years, so I'm not a civil servant. It can be extended if I want and if given permission. I was sent by the Department of Foreign Affairs as a researcher for cultural exchange. I have to research this field, make a report and send it to the Department of Foreign Affairs.*

**How helpful was your experience of studying Indonesia in getting this job?**

*It was very helpful. In addition, by being in Australia, it meant I had to become fluent in English. If I was at the University of Indonesia, it would have been quite difficult to improve my English skills. But these days I mainly use Indonesian and Japanese. Not so much English.*

**What are you going to do after you have finished your contract in Jakarta?**

*I'm still not sure. I might apply for a PhD program. That is one of my options. I might do it in Japan. But I really don't know. If the opportunity comes up, I'd like to do research related to human rights.*

**For you, what is the most interesting aspect relating to Indonesia?**

*Ah, there are so many things. It's difficult to name just one aspect. Of course I'm interested in the culture. I also like Indonesian food, such as Nasi uduk [a rice dish]. I most often go to street stalls or roadside cafes. Most foreign women like the massage parlours. There are so many good places. There's a good one in Jalan Surabaya. The quality is probably better than in Japan. In Japan it is so expensive.*

**Is living in Jakarta difficult, given the pollution and the traffic jams?**

*I'm used to all of them. They do not frustrate me anymore. One thing I like about Indonesia is the people. It is easy to become friends with Indonesians. One can get close to Indonesians quickly.*

**Have you ever considered of coming back to Australia?**

*I often miss Melbourne, the beautiful city and enjoyable lifestyle, and I am definitely thinking of visiting Melbourne again as a tourist. I love Melbourne very much, I even considered becoming a permanent resident when I was studying. However, I am enjoying my time in Jakarta at the moment, and am very happy that I have been able to utilize my knowledge and language proficiency for my career which I gained from my time in Melbourne.*

INDONEWS thanks Andy Fuller for transcribing and translating the interview.

# Quo Vadis: Indonesian Studies on the Net

By John MacDougall

*Many Indonesianists know John MacDougall as the most dedicated observer of Indonesian studies on the Internet. Aside from the huge range of Internet resources that he has made available, his services to the global community of Indonesian studies are also significant. The critical role of this mail-list in the first few years of the Internet in Indonesia to the pro-democracy movement in the last years of the New Order rule is well documented. John hosted one of the earliest, and will perhaps remain the worlds largest lists of its kind, the Apakabar list, with 250,000 readers in 96 different nations, constituting the largest Indonesian list in the history of the Internet. The breadth of his interests is apparent in his blog <<http://uttersimplicity.blogs.friendster.com/simplicity/>>. John reveals below ways to make the simple Google search more powerful, as well as many websites that will aid in your research on Indonesia. He can be contacted at <[john.a.macdougall@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.macdougall@gmail.com)>. He welcomes you to 'friend' him on Facebook or Friendster.*

Once upon a time, I thought the net augured an imminent great leap forward for Indonesian studies. Chastened after laboring in these vineyards for over twenty years, I now know this hope was naive. The revolution never came. What happened instead was more visibility for the field, and incrementally greater access to, but far from optimal use of, much more primary documentation.

The problem starts with a broad misunderstanding of who does this fuzzy thing called Indonesian studies. Knowledge workers do it -- these are people whose work effort is centered around creating, using, sharing and applying information. It is parochial thinking to consider Indonesian studies only, or even mainly, the pastime of academics, who are, it must be said, collectively very stingy in sharing their product on the public net in virtually any net place. They are still by and large secluded print people writing articles with limited lifetimes mainly for very narrow audiences.

Almost any Google advanced web search using keywords uniquely relevant to Indonesia and seeking pdf, doc, wpd, xls, ppt or even rtf files shows the relatively modest role of academics. Just compare search results from only the "edu" domain with those from the entire public web. You have to use online library catalogs or Google Scholar, followed by hardly universally accessible licensed databases, to discover, then see, full-text published academic articles online relating to matters Indonesian. Surprisingly, major bookstore sites everywhere are also underwhelming in their Indonesia holdings. These patterns hold for academic authors of all nationalities writing in any language.

## Dirge

But isn't Indonesian studies beset, like most fields, by information overload, in print and in the net? Indeed, that is true. But not for all categories of information. And this leads to the most grating aspects of my lament, all of which are, in theory, fixable.

First, search skills among the online mob remain rudimentary. Second, selection of types of net places to search is in practice far too constrained. Third, pro-active individual and group creation of net knowledge is lethargic.

## Google

Everybody Googles, that's good. But *how* they search is the real issue. Minimally, you ought to be using a Google advanced web-search page (e.g. <[www.google.ca/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en)>, not the familiar spare default classic homepage <[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)>. If you can't break away from the all too familiar, at least learn a few Google operators to use there, <[www.google.com/help/operators.html](http://www.google.com/help/operators.html)> or <[www.google.com/help/refinesearch.html](http://www.google.com/help/refinesearch.html)>. Does this all seem too much? Go back to basics <[www.google.com/help/basics.html](http://www.google.com/help/basics.html)>.

Not to be a pedant, no one really simply Googles. Google has many specialized searchable databases <[www.google.com/intl/en/options](http://www.google.com/intl/en/options)> customized for types of content and users. Most will bring you far different Indonesia-related results than a general websearch. At least once try Googling blogs, books, catalogs, discussion groups, your own hard disk, your Gmails, a directory, planet earth, images, maps, news, news archives, products for sale, scholarly papers, videos, the US government's online holdings, operating systems documentation, and a host of other dazzling omissions from your repertoire <[www.google.com/help/features.html](http://www.google.com/help/features.html)>.

A few more Googling admonitions. Use Google's tools for finding only material in specific other languages (including Indonesian) while websearching. After searching in languages you don't normally read (maybe Dutch, French, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese), see if Google's language tools will render it into English or another language. All of this from <[www.google.com/language\\_tools](http://www.google.com/language_tools)>. Sorry, no Google translations from Indonesian. Yet. And little truly useful and free to fall back on

in translating full webpages as is now possible in many languages. See <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/3361>. For Explorer try [www.freedomdownloadcenter.com/Network\\_and\\_Internet/Web\\_Browsers/IE\\_Translator.html](http://www.freedomdownloadcenter.com/Network_and_Internet/Web_Browsers/IE_Translator.html).

Read more about Indonesia faster. Try Google Reader [www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader) to keep current effortlessly on new content (web feeds) posted not just to blogs but any syndicated webpage [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_feed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_feed). Reader has two simple built-in ways for finding content you want. You can even put your very own customized Indonesia Google News searches (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/indonesian-studies/message/7388>) into Reader.

You can get quick-click button access to virtually all Google services by installing a Google Toolbar [www.google.com/tools/firefox/toolbar/FT3/intl/en](http://www.google.com/tools/firefox/toolbar/FT3/intl/en) in your browser (choose the Firefox or Explorer version). You can integrate your entire net activity on Indonesia into your own almost magically made private personal website through iGoogle [www.google.com/ig](http://www.google.com/ig). Your iGoogle site makes a very satisfying browser startpage. Google Page Creator [www.google.com/a/help/intl/en/admins/page\\_creator.html](http://www.google.com/a/help/intl/en/admins/page_creator.html) allows you to quickly build a nice public website for sharing your online Indonesia studies tools.

### Beyond Google

Google deliberately does not index everything on the web for you. Try the jux2 search engine [www.jux2.com/index.php](http://www.jux2.com/index.php) which places the results of Google, Yahoo, and MSN searches side-by-side (juxtaposition, hence the name). For example, it is a dirty little-known secret that Google is not exactly going to overwhelm you with competitor Yahoo! pages. Use jux2 to verify this by searching in it for two Yahoo! groups, indonesian-studies and east-timor-studies lists. How many years has Google hoodwinked you?

More zeal is needed by virtually everyone who has read this far to create new Indonesia-related search tools and content. There has been some progress since the early days. On my Simplicity blog <http://uttersimplicity.blogs.friendster.com/simplicity> in a series of postings I explain, and provide on the right sidebar, clickable links to many Indonesia-related searchrolls (see [www.rollyo.com](http://www.rollyo.com) and <http://rollyo.com/explore.html?rollterm=indonesia&x=0&y=0>), listibles. See [www.listible.com](http://www.listible.com) and [www.listible.com/search/using "indonesia"](http://www.listible.com/search/using%20indonesia) and viewing successive results pages), swickis <http://swicki.eurekster.com> and <http://swickibuilder.eurekster.com/dir.aspx>, and clustering search engines [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com) using Teoma search en-

gine, [www.ask.com/web?qsrc=167&o=0&l=dir&q=indonesia&search=search](http://www.ask.com/web?qsrc=167&o=0&l=dir&q=indonesia&search=search), and <http://clusty.com> using Vivisimo search engine and <http://clusty.com/search?input-form=clustysiple&v%3Asources=webplus&qery=indonesia>. I'm not terribly enthused, but meta-search engines comprise yet another search strategy (try [www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com), [www.mamma.com](http://www.mamma.com), and the new [www.zuula.com](http://www.zuula.com)). The learning curve for all the above is not steep.

### Grow Collegiality

The full-range of possibilities in using the net for doing collaborative research on Indonesia go well beyond the scope of this brief essay. Some are straightforward -- more personal blogs focused on Indonesia (such as [www.indonesiamatters.com](http://www.indonesiamatters.com)), team blogs ([www.parasindonesia.com](http://www.parasindonesia.com)), aggregator blogs (<http://asiablogging.com> or <http://indosnesos.blogspot.com>), phlogs ([www.jakartadailyphoto.com](http://www.jakartadailyphoto.com) or [www.flickr.com/search/groups/?q=indonesia](http://www.flickr.com/search/groups/?q=indonesia)), multiple-moderator lists (<http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/pantau-komunitas>), videos ([www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=indonesia&search=Search](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=indonesia&search=Search)), podcasting ([www.pramborsfm.com/?opt=podcast](http://www.pramborsfm.com/?opt=podcast), website columns), [www.antarakita.net/resources.html](http://www.antarakita.net/resources.html) online libraries), [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/easttimor-studies/links/Papers\\_Theses\\_and\\_001178035574](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/easttimor-studies/links/Papers_Theses_and_001178035574), job boards), <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/vacancy> and multiple language Wikipedias ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Wikipedias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedias)). Other options stray from beaten paths. Besides copious file-sharing and storage sites (<http://www.mashable.com/2007/07/28/online-storage>, <http://docs.google.com>, and [www.thinkfree.com](http://www.thinkfree.com)) for almost every kind of medium ([www.xdrive.com](http://www.xdrive.com) and [www.zoho.com](http://www.zoho.com)), mashups ([www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php](http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php) and [www.programmableweb.com/mashups/directory](http://www.programmableweb.com/mashups/directory)) promise great innovative sources for Indonesian studies, as do wikis (<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/wiki.htm>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wikis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wikis), and <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Indonesian>).

### Instant messaging

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant\\_messaging](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant_messaging), free or inexpensive Internet telephony (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype> and [www.alex.com/browse/general/?&CategoryID=302238&mode=general](http://www.alex.com/browse/general/?&CategoryID=302238&mode=general)), and social networking sites ([www.friendster.com](http://www.friendster.com), [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_social\\_networking\\_websites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites)) create once unthinkable opportunities to discover and to work

with potential Indonesian studies knowledge workers near and far. Need to do advanced project management and collaboration? This, too, can now be done ([www.basecamphq.com](http://www.basecamphq.com), [www.weboffice.com](http://www.weboffice.com), or [www.centraldesktop.com](http://www.centraldesktop.com)).

### Forgot something?

In the field and worried you might need something stored only on your home or of-

fice PC? No problem anymore. You can either take your work with you (<http://portableapps.com>) or access it via any broadband connection ([www.logmein.com](http://www.logmein.com) or [www.gotomypc.com](http://www.gotomypc.com)).

*Editor's note: all references to "http://www. . ." in the original article has been presented above as "www. . ."*

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## The Internet in Indonesian Students' Lives in Australia

### Anne Suryani

In recent years the new media, particularly the Internet, has become a major part of people's daily activities. The Internet offers high-speed communication via email, mailing lists, online discussion and real-time chatting, as well as extensive information access, product purchasing, banking, newspapers, movies, television, and radio streamed from around the globe.

New developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) can also facilitate unique environments for academics and have impacted on students' learning activities. Social scientists have begun to explore to the use and effectiveness of ICTs across a range of environments including universities, online courses and online libraries, while other researchers have focused on the Internet as a teaching-learning tool.

In countries with a developed ICT infrastructure, access to these new media forms is expected and is often promoted as an essential element to a country's social and economic success. In developed countries, universities and academics have enthusiastically taken advantage of the Internet and other new media for educational purposes.

In Australia, most universities provide free Internet access to their staff and students, so that they can use the Internet from any computer on campus by simply entering their username and ID.



photo courtesy A. Suryani

Students and their lecturers can easily download references from library catalogues, online journals or any databases as well as engaging in communication across the world. This is not the case in a developing country such as Indonesia, where Internet users account for less than 9% of the population. In Australia that figure is around 70% of the population. This disparity between the two countries in terms of new media and Internet access and usage drew my interest in exploring changes in Indonesian students' academic lives as a result of living and studying in Australia.

The research for this mixed methods project was designed in two phases. The first phase was a quantitative study using a questionnaire to collect the students' demographic details, extent of Internet access and their reported usage; while the second phase was a qualitative study using in-depth interviews to explore previous and recent experiences of Internet

usage, particularly as these related to participants' learning activities, as well as their plans after returning to Indonesia.

Ninety four Indonesian students in Victorian-based universities agreed to participate in the project. Their ages ranged from 17 to 48 with the median age of 27 years, and with almost equal numbers of males (51%) and females (49%). Two thirds (67%) of participants were postgraduate students and the remainder were undergraduates in various disciplines. When at home in Indonesia, these participants, although they lived in different parts of the country, mostly resided in cities and suburbs. A majority of the students (79%) reported having been users of the Internet for the past 6-8 years. Interestingly, fifty percent of the participants considered themselves to be *advanced Internet users*, forty five percent looked upon themselves as *average users*, with just 3% rating themselves as a *beginner* and one person nominating herself as an *expert*.

Prior to coming to Australia, a third of the Indonesian students in the study reported that they mostly accessed the Internet from an Internet kiosk; a further 31% accessed the Internet at home, and 27% gained access from their work place. This finding is similar to previous research which has shown that around 50% of the Internet users in Indonesia have access from Internet kiosks. While these participants were studying in Australia, their most popular place of access was home (71%), followed by on campus (22%). Among those who had home Internet access in Australia, 85% of them choose broadband. Perhaps this was not surprising because the majority of people in Australia use the Internet at home via a broadband connection.

Data was collected showing that 42% of participants spent less than Rp 100,000 (Approximately AUD\$12) per month on Internet access in Indonesia, 31% indicated paying between Rp 100,000 - 200,000 and 21% spent over Rp 200,000. While studying in Australia, 54% of the Indonesian students in this study spent less

than \$40, while 34% paid \$41-\$80 per month for their access. Additionally, there were few participants who did not know their Internet expenditure because it was included in their housing rent costs.

Although previous studies claim that college students are early adopters and heavy users of the Internet compared to the general population, it is difficult to know whether this is similar for Indonesian students and the general population because no national statistics are available. However, this study has found that 38% of the student participants use the Internet for 3-5 hours during a typical weekday for academic purposes such as finding and reading online journals or book chapters. Just over a third of the sampler (33%) spent between 1-3 hours for the same purposes. During a typical weekend the time spent using the Internet for academic purposes slightly declined: 20% for between 3-5 hours, around 31% for 1-3 hours, and 20% for somewhere between 30 minutes and 1 hour. Interestingly, when the students were asked about the most useful item to support their study, fifty percent of participants preferred the Internet, 25% chose lecturers or tutors, while 21% sought information in books, and a smaller number placed their trust in advice from friends. Perhaps the convenience of the Internet has changed the way students search out resources. This research would suggest that books and lecturers are no longer being used as the main source of information for study and learning. Most undergraduate and postgraduate participants agreed that the Internet is the most useful tool for getting information to support their learning.

Learner-instructor interaction over the Internet provides an opportunity to exchange information or ideas in order to motivate and support the learner. Furthermore, these communications might be facilitated by joining online discussion and sending emails to lecturers. This research found that nearly 61% of participants sent emails to their lecturers or tutors between once and five times during two weeks however 15% did not email them at all.

It has been argued that "the Internet is a dynamic, broad-based, relatively inexpensive tool of communication and information gathering". This may well be true in certain contexts but not in Indonesia where the infrastructure does not yet exist to allow citizens to easily seek access to the Internet and new media technologies. Around 85% of participants confirmed that they had difficulties securing Internet access in Indonesia. Even when access is possible there are problems related to connection, download speed and capability. Hopefully, Indonesian students who have overseas learning experiences will help to generate demand for improved access to the Internet and will have developed the skills to further their own education and the education of others in the near future.

*Anne Suryani is a research student and a research assistant at Monash University's Faculty of Education. She has a Masters degree in communication studies with research interests in interpersonal communication, cross cultural communication and new media.*



## Melbourne's Little Known Resources



Indonesian Collection at Coburg Library, photo by A. Heryanto

Melbourne has many rich yet little known collections of Indonesian language and studies resources that are not readily available at university libraries. *INDONEWS* highlights some of them below, including textbooks for children and for adults, interactive learning CD-ROMS, music CDs, DVDs, magazines, fiction and non-fiction books. This report was prepared by Mercia Mitchell, with assistance from Derek Whitten, Alice Grinton, and Tess Jaeger.

### COBURG LIBRARY

*Cnr Victoria and Louisa Streets, Coburg VIC 3058*

The Coburg Library collection of Indonesian resources includes both fiction and non-fiction resources, and holds an extensive pop-culture collection including novels, CDs, DVDs, magazines and cookbooks. This particular collection is unique; it may well be the richest collection of non-academic materials on Indonesian mass media and pop cultures -- unavailable even at university libraries.

### NUSANTARA

*72E Maroondah Hwy, Croydon VIC 3136*

Nusantara Indonesian Bookshop is Australia's largest supplier of Indonesian material

to Australian schools, business and the general public. It is a retailer and distributor of a wide range of Indonesian books and teaching resources. It specialises in Indonesian novels, reference books about Indonesia (in both English and Indonesian) and Indonesian teaching materials, as well as magazines, posters and maps. There are also audio cassettes and CDs targeted primarily at native English speakers learning Indonesian as a foreign language. Indonesian stickers, stamps and bookmarks, puzzles, flashcards and musical instruments such as the *Angklung* are also for sale. A recent arrival to the bookshop is *Ayo Bermain* which is a compilation of Indonesian language games. A limited range of Malaysian and Javanese written resources are also in stock.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE BOOKSHOP

259 Collins St, Melbourne

The Foreign Language Bookshop has been established for over 60 years and offers premier and secure online resources. It stocks products for learning over 125 languages, as well as a selection of fiction in many. The Indonesian selection caters primarily for those learning Indonesian. Their Indonesian Language learning products include software, books, book and audio kits, or all-audio kits. There are basic phrase-books for travellers going on short trips, as well as comprehensive courses for those seeking to become fluent Indonesian speakers. Dictionaries of all sizes are available, for Indonesian, Javanese and Bahasa Aceh. Indonesian textbooks such as *Bahasa Tentangaku*, *Bersama-sama Senior*, *Bagus Sekali!*, *Ayo!*, and *Keren!* are also available. The Indonesian fiction section contains a selection of texts translated from English, including novels by Danielle Steel and Sandra Brown, the *Harry Potter* series, *Lord of the Rings*, Disney comics and several books aimed at teenagers.

## SBS TELEVISION

SBS airs the Indonesian news program *Berita Pagi* from the Indonesian channel TVRI Monday-Saturday from midday. The SBS World News Channel also has Indonesian news programs Monday-Saturday 11am, 5.30pm and 11:15pm. It is beneficial for Indonesian language and studies learners because it provides news from an Indonesian perspective, and also contains footage of Indonesia. For learners of Indonesian it can be helpful to watch and listen at the same time as the footage can prompt understanding of the content.

## Satu TV

Satu TV is a youth Indonesian news program which broadcasts on Channel 31, a community television program produced by volunteers. It is aired on Thursdays at 6pm. It will be returning in March. The previous season is available online from YouTube.

## SBS RADIO

The SBS Radio Indonesian Language Program (1224 AM and 93.1 FM) offers extensive coverage of international, national and local news. It provides interviews with members of the local Melbourne community and plays contemporary Indonesian music. This program is beneficial for learners of Indonesian who wish to improve their listening skills and pronunciation. Indonesian speakers can learn about current affairs, Australian-Indonesian relations and Indonesian events in Melbourne. The program airs nationally on Tuesdays 2-3pm and Fridays 3-4pm; in Melbourne on Thursdays 10-11am and Fridays 2-3pm. Podcasts are also available to be downloaded on their website.

## Radio 3ZZZ

Melbourne Ethnic Community Radio 3ZZZ also has an Indonesian segment on Fridays from 8-9pm. The frequency is 92.3FM and is also available to be downloaded from their website. 3ZZZ aims to inform and enable Indonesian people and people interested in Indonesia to become more involved with Indonesian affairs and the world particularly in social, cultural, political, educational, work and settlement related areas. It aims to promote culture and language and maintain links between countries and help people respect each others languages, cultures and traditions.

## BEE-HAPPY

Suite 205 - Level 2, 258 Little Bourke St., Melbourne.

Located in the CBD, Bee-happy has thousands of titles of books and videos available for loan. Their collection includes both resources with a specifically Indonesian-focus as well as Korea, Japan, and China (many of which have been dubbed into Indonesian). Bee-Happy's shipments arrive regularly so customers are guaranteed an up-to-date selection of the latest Indonesian books and videos. The easiest way to keep an eye on new material is to browse their website, where they post upcoming collections in the "upcoming" section, and normally have them available in the shop within 3-4 days. Customers can also subscribe to an email list to be kept informed of these new shipments. New items are usually available for overnight loan immediately. Bee-Happy is planning a major makeover on their shop and are also in the process of building a system to deliver books and videos to customer's homes. Definitely a shop to keep a close eye on!



Indonesian Collection, Coburg Library  
photo by A. Heryanto

## Farewell Lestari Widyastuti

*For your personality and life's work we are eternally grateful.*

By Peter Crockett

On the eleventh of October 2007, current and former students, members and friends of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS) lost a great friend, diplomat and cultural ambassador. Lestari Widyastuti passed away unexpectedly due to complications from tuberculosis at only 39 years of age. Lestari worked for ACICIS over the past 10 years in Yogyakarta. ACICIS was established in 1994 to ease the way for university students wanting to study in Indonesia. Lestari was one of its longest serving and most faithful members. Thanks to the work of people such as Lestari, ACICIS students are given the unique opportunity to form relationships with Indonesians independently and on equal terms.

In the decade Lestari worked for ACICIS, hundreds of students were privileged to enjoy Lestari's friendship and unfailing commitment to their wellbeing. Lestari's role as administrative assistant was no 'day-job', but one that Lestari committed herself to wholly every day that an ACICIS student was in Indonesia. Lestari knew just what to do for any student experiencing difficulty with finding accommodation, classrooms, medical help, or someone to enjoy a quiet (or more often raucous) beer with. With a smile stretching from ear to ear permanently affixed to her face, Lestari did enough for three people. Be it tearing about on her 'bebek' moped, chatting with students on campus or relaxing in a bar or restaurant after a long day's work, Lestari was unstoppable.

The work of Lestari Widyastuti did not just affect those individuals whom she directly helped. The families of ACICIS students will forever be indebted to her for the assistance she gave their loved ones whilst in Indonesia. The governments of Australia and Indonesia are also indebted, as without her many of the relationships between Australians and Indonesians would not exist. Most importantly Lestari enabled Australians and Indonesians to build true friendships

during a period that has tested our diplomatic relationships so severely. Many in the current generation of Australians working with or in Indonesia would have met, and likely enjoyed the help of Lestari. Lestari's name, meaning 'everlasting', is the most apt description of her life's achievements.

Melbourne had a special place in Lestari's heart, she completed an internship with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation here after graduating from University. No doubt the experience of living and working with Australians at home was partly how Lestari became so understanding of our needs when we visited her country.

*Lestari enabled Australians and Indonesians to build true friendships during a period that has tested our diplomatic relationships so severely...*



Lestari eating vegemite for the first time.  
Photo, courtesy of David Armstrong (ACICIS).

Lestari will be dearly missed by all those who knew her. She will be remembered by ACICIS students as one of the most inspiring and wonderful people they met whilst studying in Yogyakarta.

## For the Record

### Academic Excellence in Indonesian Studies

A prize from The University of Melbourne Extension Program (UMEP) was received in a ceremony on Thursday 13 December 2007 by Shannon Regan, one of the participating students in the UMEP for Indonesian in 2007. Shannon's academic achievement in Indonesian Language Studies was a result of her great enthusiasm, discipline and commitment. Congratulations, and all the best, Shannon.

### Australia-Indonesia Relations

"Strengthening Ties Between Neighbours" is the title of the Working Lunch Program jointly organised on 19 October 2007 by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Melbourne, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Canberra, and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in Victoria.

This event was attended by 51 participants including principals of Victorian schools with a LOTE Indonesian Program and representatives of universities in Victoria, aiming to exchange notes about the present and future of Indonesian Studies in Victoria. There were two main speakers, Dr. R. Agus Sartono of the office of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, speaking on Strategic Partnerships with Asia; and Professor Tim Lindsey of The University of Melbourne, presenting on "Indonesian Studies in Australia: A Key to Indonesia-Australia Relations". Professor Lindsey emphasised that Australia and Indonesia are more than neighbours, they are partners; and partnership is what the relationships between the two neighbours truly mean.

INDONEWS Editor Elise Gould, who is also an undergraduate student at The University of Melbourne representing The Indonesian Program, shared her insights and experiences of Indonesia based on her recent visit in 2006 to Indonesia. This discussion marked an important beginning to gather insights for actions to promote Indonesian Studies in Victoria in the attempt to constantly promote meaningful relations between Australia and Indonesia.



Shannon Regan  
photo by Les O'Rourke, courtesy of UMEP

**Indonesia Forum** at The University of Melbourne, on Monday 17 December 2007, held a workshop for the University's staff and postgraduate students, with 10 papers discussed at the workshop. There was also a roundtable discussion on the future of Indonesian Studies at The University of Melbourne, chaired by Professor Tim Lindsey. The workshop was concluded with Professor Arief Budiman's Valedictory Lecture entitled "Civil Society in Indonesia: A Useful, but Problematic Concept". After ten years of service since his appointment as the Founding Professor in Indonesian Studies, Budiman retired at the end of 2007. On behalf of the Forum, Dr Ariel Heryanto, who is also Convener of The University's Indonesian Program, made some introductory remarks, thanking Professor Budiman for his service during this time, and wishing him the best for his future years.

### In The Next Issue:

- Elise Gould on her unforgettable and enriching journey to Indonesia.
- Shannon Regan was inspired to study Indonesian by Indonesian songs and music.
- Aliza Hunt's cross-cultural account of Indonesian representations of Australia.
- Interview with Associate Professor Charles Coppel on Indonesian Studies in Melbourne.