

Bargains at National Library book fair

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Library launched its first book fair, offering a wide range of books with discounts of up to 70 per cent on Friday.

Books, magazines and audio books on diverse topics ranging from politics to religion were sold at bargain prices.

The three-day affair, held at the National Library, drew about 2,000 visitors.

About 15 booksellers occupied 25 booths at the fair.

"Books, knowledge and civilisation are all one inseparable entity," said Datuk Raslin Abu Bakar, director general of the National Library, at the launch of the book fair.

The National Library has held some 600 activities to attract more people to the library. These include a speed-reading workshop for adolescents and adults and a "Home Reading Corner" workshop.

In its Kelab Sinar Pintar, parents act as mentors and role models for their children to imbue the reading habit from young. Children also get to read with celebrities in the "Let's Read Together" programme.

"There are not many book carnivals at the district and state levels," Raslin said.

As the book fair tries to lure readers with lower prices, the industry faces the challenge of trying to boost readership against narrowing profit margins in the book industry.

"We hope the low prices will encourage people to buy more books and read more," said Raslin.



Datuk Raslin Abu Bakar (centre) with Datuk Abdul Ghani Ngah (right) and Ramly Ngah Idris (left) launching the book fair at the National Library yesterday.