



Sala de
Leitura
**Xanana
Gusmão**
Reading
R o o m

annual
report
2016



Our Vision:

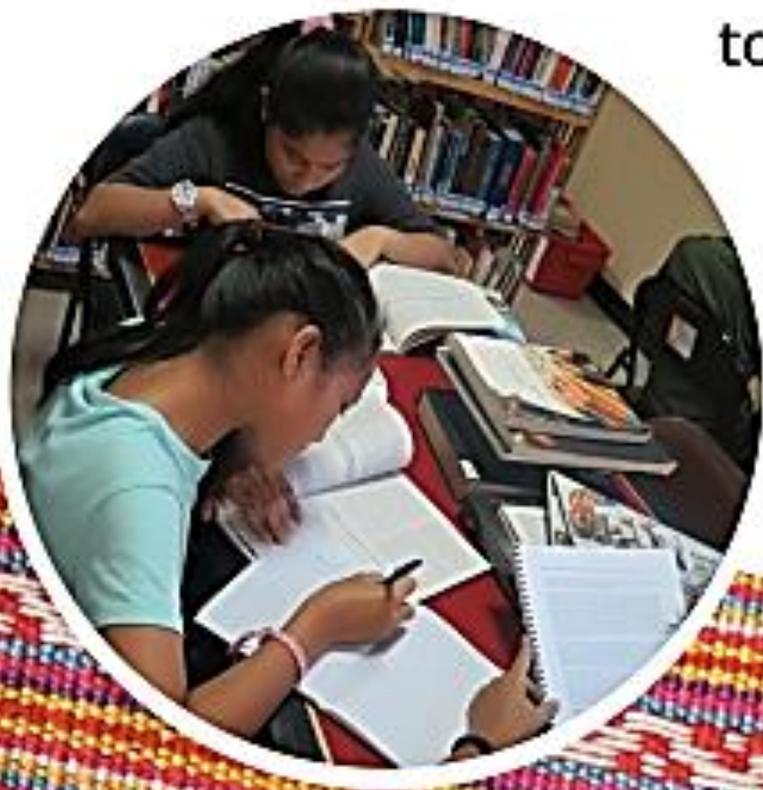
creating the reading generation in Timor-Leste

Our Mission:

to provide dynamic spaces
for all people to access resources
and information to improve their lives

Our Values:

Respect; Integrity;
Community; Quality;
Inclusivity



About Us

The Xanana Gusmão Reading Room is a local non-profit organisation in Dili, Timor-Leste which supports a public library service to inform and educate all Timorese. The organisation has been operating since June 2000 and was founded by the then First Lady, Kirsty Sword Gusmão.

This year (2016) the Reading Room celebrated its 16 year of being open to the public. As of writing, the Reading Room remains the only public library in Dili. We strive to nurture a pride in Timorese culture as well as foster a love of reading amongst the Timorese community.



Contents

Founder's Message	p. 3
Coordinator's Message	p. 4
Our Customers.....	p. 5
2016 Objectives	p. 6
Outcomes and Indicators.....	p. 12
Spending Overview.....	p. 14
Our Staff Structure.....	p. 15
Local Partners.....	p. 16
Looking Forward to 2017.....	p. 17



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a message from our founder kirsty sword gusmão

It is so richly and personally rewarding to me to see dozens of young people and children reading, studying and sharing the Reading Room library and other spaces each time I visit.

Today in 2016, like never before, I feel that the dream I nurtured 16 years ago has come true. It was a dream of creating a safe and comfortable space for the people of Dili, particularly its youth, to learn about and feel pride in their culture and national identity.

2016 has seen the Xanana Gusmão Reading Room grow its services and financial position considerably, and I am grateful to our Coordinator, staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to putting in place a membership and book loans system, both of which have enhanced the usefulness of our work in the community.

I am also grateful for the trust and generosity of our donors and other supporters who came together in June for a most enjoyable evening in celebration of the 70th Birthday of Xanana Gusmao and the Reading Room's own 16th anniversary. The coming years will be exciting ones, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Reading Room team and our capable and committed board, to achieve our goal of **"Creating the Reading Generation in Timor-Leste."**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Kirsty Sword".



a message from our coordinator

gaspar freitas



I feel very honoured to present to you the annual report for 2016. This will be the first annual report since I have held the responsibility of coordinator for the XGRR.

2016 has been a year that has brought many significant changes for the XGRR. Although we have meet various difficulties, we have created a strategic plan that will drive us in the right direction to achieve our goals together. I want to give my sincere thanks to all of the staff, volunteers and board members who have worked so hard to contribute to our achievements of 2016.

This report will show the successful year that 2016 has been for the reading room.

Now we have a digital library management system for our library materials, many more customers compared to 2015, a community space that functions effectively for various cultural events and youth programmes.

I trust that in years to come XGRR will progress even more and will face difficulties with maturity in order to realize our dreams.

Let us make our little contribution be a meaningful part of a significant change for Timor-Leste's future.



(The XGRR's visual representation of our strategic direction, a traditional Timorese *babadok*/drum.

Our babadok says:
 'Vision without action is just a dream,
 Action without Vision wastes time,
 but vision together with action can change the world.'

our customers

Most of our customers are Timorese youth, ranging from ages 16-26. Usually, youth will come to use our services to study and access the internet. During 2016 youth have also turned out in great numbers to various community discussions and courses held in the Reading Room.

Every month we have, on average, over 2000 customers who use our spaces (museum and library).

Children also enjoy our spaces either on school visits or during their free time. They can come to relax and use our children's space- the Bebeteka.

We also cater to international visitors and tourists.

Tourists in Timor-Leste enjoy coming to the Reading Room to view local art, learn more about Timor Leste's history as well as purchasing locally relevant gifts from our bookshop.

During 2016, our staff took library and museum tours for over 200 cruise ship visitors to Australia, worked to set up English and Accounting courses for our customers and have overseen over fifty events and trainings for the community that have taken place on the XGRR grounds!



Our 2016 Objectives:



1

To complete the cataloguing of library materials into the 'Koha' system, as well as to complete translation of the system into Tetun ready for staff and new library members to use.



2

To strengthen the interconnection of Timorese culture and community relationships into everyday life at the XGRR through community events, trainings and development of our online presence.



3

To create an interactive museum and library experience for visitors inclusive of staff training to enable this.



4

To hold a fundraising event for Xanana Gusmao's 70th birthday and the Reading Room's 16th which will allow the Reading Room to continue its operations.



5

Comprehensive strategic planning process including consultation with users, staff and board.

Outcomes

1. 'Koha' cataloguing and membership

"Koha" is a free to use digital library management system that has enabled us to catalogue our extensive collection so that it is now easier for customers and staff to use.

Thus far, we have catalogued 3632 materials including books and audiovisual. From the time that we opened the "Koha" system to the public until now we have signed up over 400 members. These members receive a library card that they can use to take books home, an important part of creating a culture of reading in Timor-Leste.

Most of the "Koha" system has now been translated into Tetun and customers can now use the OPAC web search to search our catalogue.



2. Culture, Events and the Community

The XGRR has enjoyed holding various community events over the past year which have contributed to groups learning about and using our services. Community events have included art exhibitions from local and international artists including Xisto Silva (paintings and mixed media) and Nuno Costa (illustration). Early in 2016 we held a successful film night fundraiser with the film 'Mensajeiru' directed by XGRR board member, Francisca Maia.

We have also held various book launches from local and international writers. We have an on-going relationship with youth council, HATUTAN, which has brought discussions about sexual diversity, Timor-Leste's economy and reproductive health to our Uma Mahon outdoor space. The space has also facilitated trainings for local and international NGOs. The XG Cultural Centre was proud to be the venue for the first LGBTI+ Pride Parade in Timor-Leste in early June 2016. With all of our events we aim to provide an inclusive, safe space for the community.

Throughout 2016 we have worked on developing partnerships with government, local and international NGOs. The support from local private industry during our fundraising period has also shown that the Dili business community wishes for the Reading Room to continue to thrive.

3. Interactive Museum and Library Experience



The library is currently operating within the new "Koha" system and is benefitting from a more localised library experience.

We have grown our collection to include a Pacific Collection and have also received many generous donations of books in Portuguese (BNU) and Bahasa Indonesian (Bank Mandiri).

Our museum has grown over this year to involve users in a more interactive, fulfilling experience. We have had the inside of our museum repainted and replastered.

Along with this, we have added two new semi-permanent exhibitions.

The first is titled 'Debt of Honour' and as of now includes details on the relationship between Timor-Leste and Australia during the second World War (this exhibition will continue to grow in the future). The second exhibition includes photographs taken by Xanana Gusmao around Timor-Leste during the years of 2000-2002. Both of these semi-permanent exhibitions are in English, Tetun and Portuguese and enhance the experience of coming to the museum for visitors who are wishing to see interesting and relevant materials.



4. Fundraiser Event

Our largest XGRR fundraiser was held on the 21st of June 2016 to celebrate both Xanana Gusmao's 70th Birthday and the Reading Room's 16th.

The night included dance, music and an auction and was supported by numerous sponsors. The fundraiser was a success for the Reading Room thanks to some extremely generous donors. The guests had an enjoyable night and the fundraiser will provide the Reading Room with much need future funds to expand and continue it's important operations.



5. Comprehensive Strategic Planning

A restructuring of our strategic plan took place during the months of May-June in 2016 and was a comprehensive process that involved our customers/users, the staff and the XGRR board. The users of the library and the XGRR space were asked to write down their dreams for the future of the XGRR, which were then submitted to management.

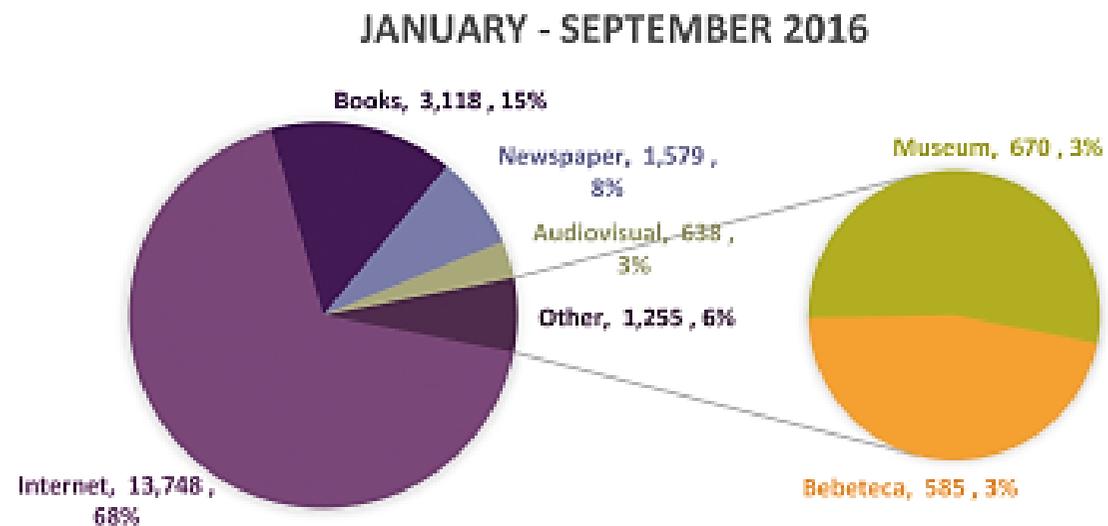
The staff were also asked the same along with being asked what they considered to be our organisations strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The XGRR board contributed to our vision, mission, values and objectives. Together with this input we drew up our strategic plan and direction for the XGRR from 2017-2020.



Indicators/Statistics

museum/library

Internet	13,748
Books	3,118
Newspaper	1,579
Audiovisual	638
Bebeteca	585
Museum	670
TOTAL	20,338



The above statistics for the Reading Room's museum and library show that during the year 2016 the total number of visitors has increased by 7% compared to 2015 and the year is not yet over. We believe this increase is due to the increase of events and community activities that have taken place this year but also is due to increased public awareness after our fundraiser. Our internet is still the most popular resource that is utilised by the public in our library however over the last few years we have seen the percentage of book readers grow as our collection has increased.

koha

As of right now, we have **428** new members to the library. This is a huge success for the 'Koha' project and membership numbers should grow in the new year as more people are able to sign up online. Below you can see the books that we currently have in our collection are circulating well in our library.

location	count
CHILD	348
FIC	137
GEN	1490
REF	238
TLREF	1525
Total:	3738

The data here is from the time that we began recording on 'Koha' (March) until the month of October. The most popular collection that we have is our Referensia Timor-Leste collection. This is most likely because the RTL collection has more books in Tetun and also more statistics on Timor-Leste.



online/facebook

Social media platforms are extremely important for organisations to utilise and have proved to be the best way to reach our audiences for the Xanana Reading Room. As of now our Facebook page has 1323 'likes' or people who are following us. Our most popular posts (about trainings and volunteering opportunities) reach over 2000 Facebook users.

We plan on engaging the online community more in the future with a Reading Room website which is currently being built. The Reading Room website will reach our international and local followers to inform them of events and happenings at the Reading Room but also to provide an online hub of learning resources in the relevant languages (Tetun, Bahasa and Portuguese).

Total Year Financial Forecast 2016

	2016 \$US
PROJECTS/EVENTS	
Income Projects/fundraiser event	\$439,939.92
Expenditure Projects	(\$52,646.65)
Net Profit/(Loss) Projects & Events	\$387,293.27
SHOP SALES (Net Profit/Loss)	\$4041.45
INTERNATIONAL/LOCAL	\$48,942.83
DONATIONS/VENUE HIRE	
Total Income	\$440,277.55
OPERATING EXPENSES	
PERSONNEL	(\$24,203.28)
COLLECTION PURCHASES	(\$1925.50)
UTILITIES AND OPERATING	(\$21,179.36)
Total Operational Expenditure	(\$47,308.14)
Surplus/Deficit	\$392,969.41
RESULT	\$392,969.41



Our Staff Structure

Board and
Advisors



Coordinator



Library/Museum Assistant

Digital Library Assistant

Library/Museum Assistant

Local
Volunteers



International
Volunteers

We would like to thank the following local partners
and donors;
we greatly appreciate your support during 2016

Major Private Industry Supporters:

- Wika Construction
- JACINTO Supermarket
- Fortune Star Trading
- Jonize Timor Leste
- BTK Timor Leste
- Nuno Costa Design
- BNU Timor Leste
- Bank Mandiri Timor Leste
- Kmanek Supermarkets
- East Timor Trading
- Leader Supermarket

Local partners/community:

- HATUTAN Youth Council
- LeZiaval Cultural Centre
- Centro Audiovisual Max Stahl
- Fundasaun Alola

Project and Grant Donors:

- Council of the City of Sydney
- Andrew McNaughtan Foundation
- UNESCO
- Governu Timor Leste
- Australian Communities Foundation



The Xanana Gusmão Reading Room is **free** for everyone!

At the Reading Room today you can....

Learn

Become a member of our library with access to over 4000 books and audiovisual materials



Reflect

Spend some time in our museum: learn about the history of Timor-Leste and Xanana; be enchanted by beautiful local art works



Create

Colour, Play and Create in our 'Bebeteka' Childrens' Space



Inspire

Talk to us about holding an event/exhibition/training in one of our community spaces





Looking forward: *2017*

During 2017 the Reading Room plans to open a new community library space to the public. The Reading Room will have a new site look in 2017. We will also be working to promote the love of reading beyond our physical site into the wider Timorese community.

mai no deskobre
futura ne'e hamutuk
ho ami!
come and discover this
future with us!



@ 2016