

Fiona Williamson (National University of Malaysia and University of East Anglia):
Report on Potential Regional Archival Holdings for Digitisation Project:
Malaysia and Singapore

I have secured agreement from the following organisations to work with us on a pilot digitisation project:

National Meteorological Services Singapore
Forestry Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
National Archives of Malaysia

The collection(s) that each institution is prepared to share is detailed below:

Meteorological Services Singapore:

Meteorological Service Singapore are prepared to contribute thermograph logbooks of hourly data starting from 1929. They reside as images in the National Archives of Singapore – see sample image below. However, they will not need any of the project funding obtained. Please also note that Singaporean policy regarding data from Malaysian stations is that it belongs to Malaysia, and the relevant Malaysian authorities must make the decision on its release. I am currently seeking clarification as to the extent of these documents. I am aware that the time period of the documents exceeds that of the current project scope but they could be a valuable inclusion,

- gutta percha, coconut etc. Reservation of land. Clearing of forest land. Research into the environmental impact of the same.
3. Administrative records relating to forests and botanic gardens, annual reports etc. Management of 'native' and migrant labour: schemes to employ convicts in botanic gardens; working conditions for coolies etc.
 4. Weather: accounts of bad weather/flooding and its impact on local agriculture and villages e.g. severe floods (and droughts) devastated rural areas in 1891, 1896, 1901, 1926.

There are also useful journals and gazettes including: Garden's Bulletin Straits Settlements, Penang Gazette.

Many of the records can be connected with (but do not replicate) Colonial Office files held at the British National Archives, Kew and as such, illuminate and add great value to our understanding of nineteenth century Malaysia.

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Extent: 1 box, 3 photographic albums, 49 volumes and 52 folders