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Radio Television Malaysia (RTM)

By

Che Wan Mahmud
Radio Malaysia was established in 1946. The year 1978 has brought a new dimension and meaning in the history of television in Malaysia. Since then it was known as Radio Television Malaysia - RTM. Radio Malaysia has six networks on national scale within Malaysia.

Radio 1 Broadcast 24 hrs daily

Radio 2 18 hrs

Radio 3 18 hrs

Radio 4 18 hrs

Radio 5 18 hrs

Radio 6 18 hrs

Radio Malaysia also broadcast programmes especially catered for the Aborigines in two dialects - Semai and Temiar. Apart from the National Broadcast, which is broadcast from the headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, some programmes are also broadcast from Regional Stations in Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Ipoh, Kota Bahru, Kuala Trengganu, Johor Bahru, Melaka, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Sibu, Limbang and Labuan. These regional stations provide services for local listeners.

Radio Malaysia also provides services for overseas listeners, known as Voice of Malaysia.

Every department within RTM is entrusted with the responsibility of producing programmes to be broadcast on the air.
The respective services are:-

A) Presentation  
B) Drama  
C) Entertainment and Music  
D) Public Affairs  
E) Development and Agriculture  
F) Religious Service  
G) Capital City Broadcast  
H) F.M. Stereo  
I) Programme Operations and Record Library  

The Radio Archives and Record Library is part of a section known as the Programme Operations. The head of this section is known as the Controller of Programme Operations and is directly answerable to the Director of Radio.

The Archives and Record Library was established in 1946. It has a collection of 160,000 records in four different languages ie. English, Malay, Indian, Chinese and others. Besides this we have about 5100 audio tapes and 2,800 compact discs.

Our budget for a year is US$45,000 and each year varies according to the amount approved by the Federal Government. The staff strength at present is 24. At this point we consider that we are under staff as compared to the amount of workload based on the number of broadcast hours.
The Records are being catalogued under the Five Way Cross Index System namely :-

A) Number
B) Title
C) Artiste
D) Composer
E) Classification.

We in RTM have yet to improve our archival system and we hope that we will be able to go into computer soon.

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