

# Library concept needs changes under 4th IR

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Technology advancement in the fourth industrial revolution (4th IR) calls for constant evolution in conventional libraries to maintain its relevance.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk D Kamarudin D Mudin said libraries – traditionally a place to borrow books – risk losing its functions if no action is taken to accommodate today's rapid development.

He said the space that is commonly used by students to gather information may no longer be relevant in the future as information can now be easily acquired through the internet.

"In a recent visit to Japan, we found a library that has a CNN corner

which was much like a café and has a huge television for news whereby its students can sit, order coffee and discuss about current issues.

"There were also areas where students could spend time lying around and read books, a 24-hour study room as well as a space for women only, to provide privacy and security.

"These are the examples of what we could one day offer to our students here," he said before launching the 2018 'Budaya Ilmu' programme at UMS Library yesterday.

The university's library administration, he said, should fully utilize its spaces in the building to develop students' interest by sharing useful and beneficial information.

He suggested motivational words or details of UMS key result areas be

placed at appropriate positions so that not only administrators are aware of the university's aspirations and achievements, but the students as well.

UMS, he assured, will continue to develop potential areas to provide better capacities such as setting up smart classrooms in the future.

"I also hope that the library will gather feedback from students to find out their wants and needs so that we could plan ahead for the library's future development so that we would not be left behind," said Kamarudin.

Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof. Dr. Rasid Mail, UMS Registrar No'man Ahmad, UMS treasurer Zalifah Shadan and Acting Chief Librarian Zawawi Tiyunin.

The two-day programme was



**AT THE LAUNCH ... (from left) Zalifah, Zawawi, Kamarudin, Rasid and No'man cutting a cake to launch the event.**

aimed at fostering reading habit and passion for knowledge as well as promoting academic research writing among UMS students and academicians.

Among the activities that will be held are book exhibitions, research trainings, workshops, Young South-east Asia Leaders Initiative talk, forums and research presentations.