

Introduction

After an extensive reorganisation, in the middle of 2014 the 'new' KITLV began its work as KNAW institute dedicated primarily to research and firmly anchored in the Leiden University campus. At that point a number of the collection staff transferred to the University Library Leiden (UBL), and in 2015 we had to say farewell to those who, as a result of the reorganisation, had not been offered positions by the University of Leiden (UL). In the same six months a large number of young researchers were taken on. In this way, by the end of 2015 the institute was renewed: most of the staff joined the workforce after 1 July 2014.

The institute became smaller and its mission was to concentrate on research – the care of the collection was transferred to the UBL, while its publishing activities had already been entrusted to Brill Academic Publishers. The other side of this painful reorientation and downsizing was that these measures made the institute much younger and more dynamic. A common PhD programme of the KNAW and UL made it possible to hire six PhD candidates. Thanks to successful subsidy applications to the NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) and the support of the KNAW a number of post-docs and a few more PhD assistants could also be given positions. Together these assistants and post-docs – who include no less than five people holding a Veni subsidy – now form the majority of the research staff. Because this team consists of people of a number of different nationalities it has become necessary to use English in internal discussions among KITLV research staff.

Relinquishing responsibility for the collections implied a drastic reduction of the budget – the lump sum was cut by almost two-thirds. On the other hand, the financial basis of the institution is solid and, above all, the amount that the KITLV has been able to acquire annually in particular subsidies is almost equal to that of the basis subsidy. The success in acquiring external subsidies demonstrates the quality of the present research staff and the confidence that financial instances have in the 'new' KITLV. A great stumbling block, given the limited means and fixed research formation, is that there is little opportunity to offer temporary researchers a permanent position, while recent legislation makes it difficult to offer temporary staff successive contracts. This is a problem experienced not only at the KITLV but a sore point for a great many temporary staff.

While research is the institute's central task, the KITLV also has educational functions. KITLV researchers teach at universities and supervise PhD candidates, four of them being full professors. With an eye to their future career, PhD candidates and young post-docs are encouraged to gain experience in education. The intern programme begun in 2014 has a strong educational bias. Master's students from various universities are given the opportunity to gain research experience under expert guidance. In their turn, they contribute to the rejuvenation, the research and the reputation of the KITLV. In the year with which this report deals the institute welcomed twenty interns, usually for a period of three months.

Valorisation is continually reaffirmed by KITLV researchers appearing in the media as experts in the field of current developments in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and the post-colonial Netherlands. In 2015 the institute generated a great deal of publicity in connection

with the publication of *Soldaat in Indonesië, 1945-1950*, (Soldier in Indonesia, 1945-1950) written by Gert Oostindie in collaboration with Ireen Hoogenboom and Jonathan Verwey. This book is the first major result of a research programme in which seven KITLV researchers worked together with fellows from outside the country, Dutch interns and students of Leiden University. The publication of this book has led to discussions with political bodies in The Hague about financing a broader research programme.

In other ways and at other levels the KITLV also endeavours to validate its special knowledge. Researchers advise the government on questions of policy, organise lectures for a broad public and contribute to exhibitions. In this latter category we can mention, for instance two exhibitions in the UBL, one dedicated to the *founding father* of the KITLV collections, Rouffaer (Frank Okker), and one on Suriname (Rosemarijn Hoefte).

On a policy level, the research institute KITLV deals in the first place with the KNAW, and also with the board of the Association KITLV and the UL. These partners are represented in the 'Steering Committee KITLV', which meets twice a year. In addition the direction and quality of the research are discussed with the Scientific Committee appointed by the Academy and under the chairmanship of Ernst Hirsch Ballin. Halfway through 2015, in close collaboration with the committee, a positively disposed mid-term self-evaluation was undertaken. This was received with general approval by the KNAW. Very tragically Mario Rutten, a member of the Scientific Committee, died at the end of 2015.

Further in this annual account, the Association KITLV, under the chairmanship of Susan Legêne, reports on their activities. Here it is sufficient to state that the collaboration between the Association KITVL and KITLV-KNAW is excellent, both in the organisation of activities of the members and the supervision of the publication funds that were formerly the responsibility of KITLV Press, and now have been transferred to Brill.

Mission Statement

The Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde / Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) aims to be a world-class research institute for the study of Southeast Asia and the Caribbean, with a focus on Indonesia and the 'Dutch' Caribbean, in an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Benefitting from the unrivalled collections offered on campus by Leiden University, KITLV researchers explore (dis)continuities between the (pre)colonial and postcolonial period, and articulate their research agendas empirically and theoretically in order to advance wider debates on the meandering paths of globalization. KITLV engages with the academic community across the world, as well as with (inter)national governmental organizations, NGOs, the media, and the interested general public. KITLV is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).