

Indonesia

Among the many islands of Indonesia, rivers are the main means of transportation. So it is no wonder that some libraries here float on rivers.

The country has seven floating libraries. The Kalimantan Floating Library consists of a wooden boat, 8 meters long and 3 meters wide. The boat, which is powered by a diesel engine, can carry up to five hundred books.

When the boat first began bringing books to the villages along the river Kahayun, it had to stay until people finished reading their books. That took too much time, so the librarians decided to leave behind containers filled with books. This allowed them to continue traveling the river, bringing books to other villages. Now the children in the villages along the river come running when the library boat tugs upstream. They are all excited about rummaging through a new box of books to read.

In the city of Surabaya, a bicycle library makes its rounds every day. The East Java Library Board decided that a bicycle was the most economical way to deliver books to readers. The library is powered by man and environmentally friendly. The bicycle makes it easy to get around the narrow, winding streets of the city. It carries books and promotes reading around the city, at schools in the countryside, in villages and kampongs, which are urban communities designed to look like villages in the countryside. Children and their parents can borrow books from the bicycle library and exchange them the next time the library visits.

Republic of Indonesia

Capital: Jakarta

Estimated Population: 258,316,000

Indonesia consists of many islands. It is the largest group of islands in the world, consisting of more than 17,500 islands that lie between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The islands of Indonesia include Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali, Timor, and many more. The people speak a language called Bahasa Indonesian, but there are also more than two hundred other languages spoken, including English.

