SUHARSO REHABILITATION CENTER ARCHIVES,
SURAKARTA-INDONESIA (1950–1980)

Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia
Central Java Provincial Archives and Library
### 1 Title of Documentary Heritage Item or Collection (max 10 words)

Suharso Rehabilitation Center Archives, Surakarta-Indonesia (1950-1980)

### 2 Summary (max 200 words)

The outbreaks of the Indonesian revolutionary war (1945-1950) created large numbers of people with disabilities. The situation raised the concern of developing a prosthesis to support these people. Dr. Suharso, an orthopedics surgeon, pioneered the establishment of a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities in Surakarta, Central Java.

The Rehabilitation Center Surakarta became Asia’s first and largest rehabilitation center that offered the integrated concept of rehabilitation services. In its development, it served as the referral center not only in Indonesia but also in the Asia-Pacific region in the 1950s-1970s since it not only provided medical treatment, but also the empowerment of the economy, social, and culture of the people with disabilities.

The achievements signified a pivotal moment in the medical treatment innovation for people with disabilities. One of the tremendous innovations was rehabilitating and giving them a second chance to find jobs and improve their lives. Essentially, the equal treatment for women and girls with disabilities were highly portrayed in this collection.

The archives consist of textual (475 files), photographic (2157 sheets [1657 processed and 500 unprocessed]), and information about the history of the development of rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities.

### 3 Nominator/s Contact details

#### 3.1 Name of nominator/s (person/s or organisation/s)

1. Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia
2. Central Java Provincial Archives and Library

#### 3.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

1. ANRI is the Indonesian governmental institution which is responsible for records and archives administration, including managing the registration of memory of nation (MKB), facilitating the nominations of archives as part of documentary heritage as MOW/MOWCAP.
2. Central Java Provincial Archives and Library as the owner and custodian of the nominated documentary heritage.

[www.mowcapunesco.org](http://www.mowcapunesco.org)
3.3 Contact person/s

1. Imam Gunarto, Head of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. Edy Supriyanta, Head of Central Java Provincial Archives and Library.

3.4 Contact details

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<thead>
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<td>Imam Gunarto</td>
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<td>+62 21 780 5851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edy Supriyanta</td>
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4 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I/we have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register. All nominees must sign here. (A signed support letter from the nominators’ National Commissions is required when the nomination is from two or more Member States. See Section J in the Process document for more details)

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5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different from the nominator/s)

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5.2 Custodian/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner/s)

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5.3 Legal status

The Archives belong to the Regional Government of Central Java Province. The legal document attached [here](#). The other documents [See attachment 2](#).

5.4 Accessibility

The archives can be accessed through various way

1. The reading room of the Regional Archives Central Java Provincial Archives and Library. (Jl. Dr. Setiabudi No. 201C Sron dol, Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia)
2. Finding aids ([see Section 6.3](#)) could be accessed online via the Central Java Provincial Archival Information System (SIKS) webpage [here](#). Further development is now in progress.
3. Selected digitized archives separately can be found [here](#). It is planned that full archives will be made available to the public in the future.
### 5.5 Copyright status

Copyright status document attached [here](#), the example of archives are attached [here](#). The other related documents [See attachment 3](#).

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### 6 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

#### 6.1 Exact title of the documentary heritage

Rehabilitation Center Archives, Surakarta-Indonesia (1950-1980)

Nominated by Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia and Central Java Provincial Archives and Library.

#### 6.2 Type of documentary heritage

The archives consist of textual and photographic archives.

#### 6.3 Catalogue or registration details

1. List of photo archives could be found [here](#)
2. List of textual archives could be found [here](#)

Further information, [See attachment 4](#)

#### 6.4 Images of the documentary heritage.

Selected images attached. [See attachment 5](#)

#### 6.5 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Post World War II, in the 1940s-1950s, the population of people with disabilities was increasing in numbers. Following the situation, the urge was commenced in the advancements made toward independence and self-reliance for these people. Disability rights activists mobilized on the local level demanding national initiatives to address the faith of the disability community. In Asia, mainly Indonesia, on the other hand, the outbreak of the Indonesian revolutionary war (1945-1950) doubled the population of people with disabilities.

The concerns on how to handle them and at the same to address their faiths led to the idea of developing a prosthesis to support these people. Dr. Suharso was an orthopedic surgeon who initiated the establishment of a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities.

The establishment was originally focused solely on helping the war victims during the period of 1950s to 1970s. The establishment then grew into the place which functioned as the referral rehabilitation center for other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. At that
time, it was widely known as the successful example of the concept of integrated rehabilitation services mainly for the people of disabilities.

The archives of the Rehabilitation Center Surakarta were acquired on September 27, 1997 by the Central Java Provincial Archives and Libraries (during that period it was under the name of the Regional ANRI Office Central Java Province) in 1997. The letter of acquisition was signed by both parties (Rehabilitation Center Surakarta and Regional ANRI Office Central Java Province).

The archives signify historical turning points and innovation for their content that related to innovations for saving people with disabilities, particularly victims of war. Moreover, they record the evidence of the integrated rehabilitation program, prompting the development of prosthetic devices to assist these people which has a broader inspiration for the same services worldwide. Furthermore, they also described how the people with disabilities developed their skills, such as repairs, workshops, sewing a prosthesis-making workshop on their own, albeit with improvised materials and other equipment. We can capture the spirit to live independently and at the same time these people still contributed to the society and established the disability communities across national boundaries from the archives.

6.6 Bibliography

Scientific publication used archives directly


Scientific publication with related topic


www.mowcapunesco.org


Lysak, Catherine L. (1992) ‘Community Based Rehabilitation and Volunteerism: an Indonesian Experience with the Motivation of Volunteer Workers’, Master Thesis submitted to the School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen’s University, Kingston.


Popular/News publication with related topic

"Unique in Indonesië Rehabilitatie-Centrum in Sürakarta Invaliden moeten bovenal geschikt gemaakt voor het werk".

www.mowcapunesco.org
De locomotief : Samarangsch handels- en advertentie-blad (in Dutch). 1954-08-11
"Stichting invalide kinderen in Solo neeft nieuw tehuis".

1955-04-12. "Orthopaedisch centrum in Solo officieel geopend".


**Books related to Dr. Suharso**


Poliman. (1983). Prof. Dr. R. Suharso. Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan
Direktorat Sejarah dan Nilai Tradisional Proyek Inventarisasi dan Dokumentasi
Sejarah Nasional

dan Kebudayaan Direktorat Sejarah dan Nilai Tradisional Proyek Inventarisasi dan
Dokumentasi Sejarah Nasional

### 6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty of Humanities, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation Center</td>
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I certify that the above named experts have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination to the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Signature

Full name

Date JUNE 15, 2022 IMAM GUNARTO

7 Authenticity and Integrity

7.1 Authenticity and Integrity

The provenance verified, no tampering. The archives are complete and intact in the original state, as guaranteed by the head of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia See attachment 6

8 Primary criteria: Regional Significance

8.1 Historical Significance

After the Indonesian Declaration of Independence in 1945, Dr. Suhrarso worked in the hospital and the Indonesian Red Cross Society in Surakarta and treated many war victims and soldiers. It was during this time that he started to research medical techniques for rehabilitation of war wounded. In that era the only place in Java to get prosthesis was in Bandung, West Java, which was at time very far from the hospital. He had an idea to develop a rehabilitation place that mainly treated the injured patients from the war.

The first attempt at making prostheses during the war resulted in the first prosthesis being made still in a simple form that did not meet the standards due to limited funds, experts, and manufacturing manuals, materials. The materials used at that time were the wreckage of used cars and bicycles, wood and animal skins. The presence of the prosthesis was welcomed by people with disabilities. It was only after a fundraising effort was carried out that a prosthesis workshop in Surakarta under the name of “Usaha Prothese Surakarta”

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(Surakarta Protese Business) was carried out in 1946 then began to recruit people to build prosthetic limbs as well as to develop techniques for rehabilitating injuries, and founded what would eventually become a rehabilitation center.

The establishment has attracted the attention and support of the newly independent Indonesian government and abroad to develop orthopedics and prostheses research in the region. He managed to modernize better prosthetic limbs for general disabilities. In 1950 he got special funding to travel to England to research Orthopaedics and Prosthetics at a higher level. Upon his return, he put into practice more advanced production techniques for prosthetics than had never been previously possible in Indonesia. The arrival of a German prosthetics expert in 1954 in the center also helped modernize their techniques once again. A 1953 newspaper article noted that the rehabilitation center had roughly 400 patients and that it offered several retraining programs for different trades and the participants were not only from Indonesia but also across Asia. With an expansion of the Indonesian government pensions and social assistance for members of the Armed Forces, Rehabilitation Center was placed under the Ministry of Social Affairs and a new facility specifically for children with disabilities (Jajasan Pemeliharaan Anak-anak Tjatjad, JPAT) was opened as well, followed by an Orthopedic clinic in the following year.

Further development in the center was conducting provision of medical care and welfare services, development of new technologies and assistive products, research contributing to conducting provision of medical care and welfare services, international cooperation to support independent life and social participation of persons with disabilities. The Surakarta Protese Business used the laborers who were the former patients being treated as the patients, mainly the people with disabilities. The program was named the integrated social rehabilitation system with social security, social empowerment and social protection. In this program, these people were given new skills in the field of making prosthetics and other vocational skills that helped them to live independently.

The organization of sports competition events for people with disabilities was another initiative done by the center. The competition then became the pioneer in the Asia-Pacific region. The Sport competitions were initially conducted through recreation and rehabilitation functions for people with disabilities, but eventually this evolved into a competitive sporting event of the highest level under the name the Paralympics, which were held for the first time in 1957 in Surakarta, Indonesia. The further development of the competition has evolved into a competitive arena for the disabilities athletes over the past 50 years. The event is now recognized as the Paralympic Games and has reached a global scale.

Due to his great service and his innovation for integrating the treatment for disabled people, The Suharso Rehabilitation Center and Dr. Suharso personally, received international recognition, namely:

1. World Rehabilitation Prize by World Veterans Federation in 1954
2. Albert Mary Lasker Award for Prof. Dr. R. Suharso and Mrs. Djohar Insiyah Suharso for their role in improving the lives of the disabled people and bringing new labor market participation of people with disabilities in 1969. link

www.mowcapunesco.org
3. Award from the People To People Program Committee For Handicapped, United States in 1970.

8.2 Form and Style Significance

None

8.3 Social Community or Spiritual Significance

Dr. Suharso envisioned the importance of substantial and technical assistance that would help the people with disabilities return into society, despite the lack of funds and the ongoing war. He demonstrated ingenuity and perseverance in providing prostheses and vocational training for disabled soldiers and general public civilians. These genuine principles and methods were widely praised and implemented worldwide at that time.

Essentially, for people with disabilities, the integrated treatment successfully helped to improve the mental health that originally had fallen down due to their abnormal physical condition. They would be more motivated to continue their life.

The archives have social significance since they present the efforts to empower the people with disabilities to acquire skills such as repairs, and workshops for making prostheses by themselves although they only utilized the minimum improvised materials and equipment. In addition, art skills are also taught to these people as alternative skills in society. Some of them obtain several art skills, such as dancing, painting, making batik, knitting, mask crafting and others.

9 Regional Significance: Comparative criteria
Social problems faced by disabled people in the newly independent Indonesia were numerous. Inaccessibility to services and a lack of opportunities like health care, schools, vocational education programs, and jobs would leave them neglected in the community. As a member of the Indonesian Red Cross medical team (1945), he oversaw this and came up with the idea to establish a center that combined integrated treatment for people with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Center he established in 1951 became Southeast Asia’s first and most comprehensive rehabilitation center. It was founded in 1951 and then the similar model was spread to other countries in the region, such as Malaysia in 1971, Singapore 1981, Thailand 1991, South Korea in 1988.

The genuine principles and methods in the center were widely praised and implemented worldwide since that time. The center provided advanced and comprehensive healthcare, medical care, and welfare services to assist people with disabilities in maintaining and recovering their overall living functions under an integrated system that provided services ranging from medical care to vocational training. The spirit to empower the people with disabilities, allowing them to live independently and at the same time they still contributed to the society and established the disability communities across national boundaries became the highlight service of the center.

The archives record how the people with disabilities developed their skills in the Rehabilitation Center, such as repairs, workshops, sewing a prosthesis-making workshop on their own, albeit with improvised materials and other equipment. These are the realization of the concept of integrated rehabilitation program, prompting the development of prosthetic devices to assist people with disabilities, which has a broader inspiration for the same services worldwide.

9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

The archives were formally acquired and preserved by Central Java Provincial Archives and Libraries since 1997. They serve as the authentic evidence of institutional activities.

10 Gender

The realization of integrated rehabilitation programs involved many parties regardless of their gender. The archives reflect Dr spouse’s role, Mrs. Djohar Insiyah. She not only took part in managing the institution, but also initiated the Foundation for Children with Disabilities (Jayasan Penderita Anak Tjat JPAT) since 1953. It is an organization that works to help children with disabilities. As of now, the foundation remains active and has become one of Indonesia’s largest organizations for children with disabilities.

Mr. and Mrs. are a one-of-a-kind couple who supported each other's efforts in order to achieve a single goal: to introduce a new concept of total care for the people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. For her work, Mrs. Djohar Insiyah received awards from, among others,
1. World Veterans Federation Award given in Vienna 1954
2. The Albert Lasker Award given in Dublin Ireland 1969. [link]

11 Statement of Significance

The establishment of the Rehabilitation Center Surakarta signified a pivotal moment in medical innovation for people with disabilities. The institution became Indonesia’s first and largest rehabilitation center and also in South East Asia at the time. The realization of integrated rehabilitation programs has a broader impact in the Asia-Pacific area.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Condition

The textual archives are in good condition, while the photo archives are partially damaged. The latest assessments were conducted in 2022.

12.2. Threat/Risk

The archives carry a considerable risk of damage, considering that Indonesia has a tropical climate so that archival media in the form of paper will be very easily damaged due to its high acidity. For this reason, the archives need to be managed properly in accordance with applicable standards.

13 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Management Plan

The textual archive has been processed into an archive inventory that can be used as a means of access for the general public and researchers. Approximately 1300 records have been arranged and described. Currently, we are still arranging and describing another 500. The archives are stored in the Archives Depot of the Central Java Provincial Archives and Library Office in accordance with archival storage standards. Preservation management planning and access to the archives includes:

1. Organize archive storage;
2. Set the standardized temperature 24-hour;
3. Regularly check the condition of room temperature and humidity;
4. Fumigation;
5. Ingested into the information system (Archival Information System/SIKS)

Planned to be implemented soon/in the near future:

1. Digitization of textual archives and photo archives;
2. Repair damaged archives;
3. Ingest archival data into the National Archives Information System (SIKN);
4. Complete processing of photo archives;

The preservation plan document can be accessed here

For further information See attachment 7

14 Consultation with Stakeholders

The following are some of the results of consultations with relevant stakeholders on this nomination:

1. Consultation with the National Archives of the Republic Indonesia (ANRI) via Zoom Meeting application. March 17, 2022.
2. Consultation meeting with the Official of Prof. Dr. Suharso Rehabilitation Centrum Surakarta. March 24, 2022,
3. Consultation with Prof. Dr. Warto, M. Hum as an independent expert via telephone conversation. March 25, 2022,
5. Consultation with Indonesian documentary expert (National MOW Committee), June 13, 2022

Further information See attachment 8

15 Other Information to Support the Nomination

1. Letter of support from Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022 could be found here
2. News about the establishment from Indonesia could be found here: Several news from international press (the Dutch newspaper) covered the Center in the 1950s. The digitized news could be found here, here and here
3. Source Publication on Rehabilitation center published by Central Java Provincial Archives and Library could be found here
4. Biography of Dr. Suharso could be found here

Further information please See Attachment 8

Check List

☐ MOWCAP website reviewed

☐ MOWCAP register process document read

www.mowcapunesco.org