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Tajuk : Rural kids to have access to e-books via Raspberry Pi

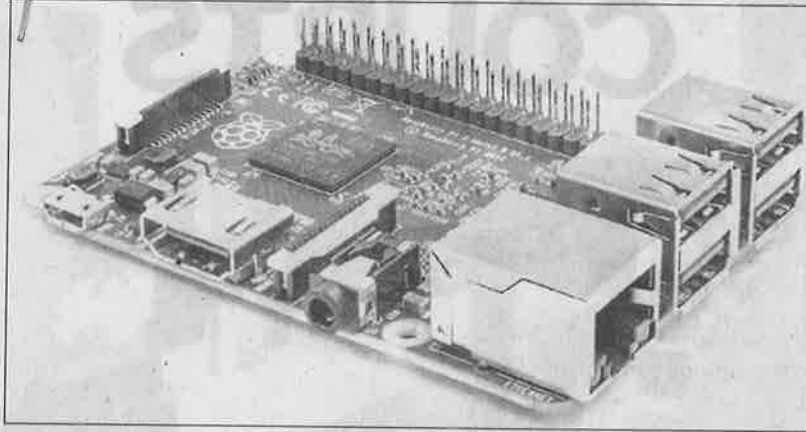


Photo shows the inside of the Raspberry Pi.

## Rural kids to have access to e-books via Raspberry Pi

**KUCHING:** Students in rural areas of the state will soon have access to thousands of e-books including encyclopaedias thanks to the Raspberry Pi.

The pocket-sized gadget, which retails for less than RM200, can allow up to 30 smartphone or tablet users to log into it at any one time using their WiFi function within a range of 20 metres, without the need for an Internet connection.

"Once the users have successfully logged into the Raspberry Pi, all they need to do is to open their Internet browser to search for the educational topics or books of their preference," Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology dean Johari Abdullah explained to reporters yesterday.

He said the contents of the Raspberry Pi, including Wikipedia for Schools topics, are preloaded to a removable memory card.

Unimas will use the device to

carry out a collaborative pioneer project with the State Library called Library in a Box in 10 areas statewide until the end of the year.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Unimas and the State Library yesterday to enable the university to gather and upload more educational e-books and interactive content with the library's assistance and support.

The first area selected for the trial run of the project early this year was Teluk Melano, and it proved to be a success with the target group.

"For the pilot projects, the gadget will be set up in village libraries or at their respective 1Malaysia Internet Centres until the end of this year," said Johari.

From next year, the project will be extended to all 222 village libraries and more than 2,000 schools statewide based on the availability of funding.