



SLLA NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

It is my pleasure to send this message to our members as the President of the Sri Lanka Library Association for 2015-2016. This is the first issue of the SLLA Newsletter for 2015/2016. The first quarter is the planning period for the year and beyond. The Council, the ExCo, the Groups and Committees discuss the work plan for the year, in order to enable the association to offer enhanced value added services to the members. In this endeavour the main activities include; the Education Review Programme, formulation of the Strategic Plan of the association, strengthening international relationships with LIS Institutions especially IFLA, Preparing the Fellowship Programme and publishing the Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct. The Conveners of the Groups and Committees were provided guidelines to organize and carry out group and committee activities during a training session. Programmes will be carried out in collaboration with the National Library and Documentation Services Board and the National Institute of Library and Information Science (NILIS) and other LIS institutions.

Whilst the programme and the work is being carried out to provide many services to our members the quarterly newsletter will keep the members aware of such activities. Simultaneously news of the Association will be posted on the SLLA website <http://www.slla.org.lk/> by the IT and the Web Coordinator to update our members on the activities of the SLLA and keep them actively involved with the Association.

I hope that the team spirit and synergism engendered will be a motivating factor to our members to enable them to have a greater engagement with the activities of the Sri Lanka Library Association in its way forward.

- **Shivanthi Weerasinghe** -

The 55th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 26th June 2015 at the Sri Lanka Foundation (SLF), Colombo 07. Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura Professor Sampath Amaratunge was the Chief Guest and Professor Oliver Abeynayake Chairman of the National Library & Documentation Services Board was the Guest of Honour at the inauguration ceremony.



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Mr. Preethi Liyanage
Nominated Members : Prof. Russell Bowden
Mr. Punchi Banda Gallaba

International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS) 2015

International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS – 2015) organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 17-18th September 2015 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The theme of this event was 'Challenges for Information Professionals and Library and Information Science Services in the 21st century'. Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director/INFLIBNET, India was the keynote speaker and H.E. Maj. Gen (Rtd) Syed Shakeel Hussain, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka, was the Chief Guest.



Conference Proceedings of International Conference in Library and Information Science

'Harnessing information to empower the profession to empower nations' or 'the end of libraries?'	Russell Bowden
Libraries for changing lives of the sex workers: a new approach for socially disadvantaged people in Bangladesh	Md. Nasiruddin
Role of the United Nations (UN) in developing libraries and the library profession in Sri Lanka	S.M.V.N.K.S. Wickramasinghe
Job satisfaction among the Library and Information Science Professionals in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, India: A study	A. Baladhandayutham
Evaluating outreach activities of the library, University of Moratuwa: perspectives of beneficiaries	Upeksha Kodithuwakku and Thushari M. Seneviratne
Utilization of library space for research and interactive learning: some reflections of Niigata University Library, Japan	Menaka Hindagolla
Conservation and preservation of special collections to sustain the cultural heritage by Eastern University library	Gayathiri Navirathan
An analytical study on the significance of online newspapers in the life of ordinary cyber age Indian citizen	P. Balasubramanian
Factor identification of website usability characteristics to end-user satisfaction: a case study at the University of Colombo	Anuja Silva
Usage of library and the social media by new entrance in 2015: a provincial analysis based on University of Peradeniya	Pradeepa Wijetunge and Champa N. K. Alahakoon
A gender-based analysis of the use of social media and electronic communication methods by new entrants: with special reference to Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya	Pradeepa Wijetunge and W. G. A. Dharmarathne
Challenges of using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in University and special libraries in Sri Lanka	R. M. Nadeeka Rathnabahu
Library Automation software usage in University libraries in Sri Lanka	D.G.A.S Malkanthi and Nimal Hettiarachchi
A ten year bibliometric analysis of Ceylon Medical Journal	Komathy Murugathas and S. Navaneethakrishnan
Health information seeking and information encountering of female undergraduates: a pilot study at University of Moratuwa	Thushari M. Seneviratne, Suraj Perera and Sujitha A. Seneviratne
Prior experiences of the new entrants in using the school library: with special reference to Management students, University of Peradeniya	Pradeepa Wijetunge and Chamani Gunasekera
A study on usage of print and electronic journals among the students of Engineering colleges in Madurai District	K. Chinnasamy
Value co-creation: empirical evidence from the library sector of Sri Lanka	S. Navaneethakrishnan and S. Arulanantham
Challenges of digital scanning of photograph collections in South Africa	Nellie Somers
Challenges in school library management: an exploratory study based on Island Zone of Jaffna District	Sivamathy Thirumaran and S. Navaneethakrishnan
Assessing critical thinking in media literacy of secondary school students - special focus to Nallur division of Jaffna district	Rajeswaran Pararajasingam and Navaneethakrishnan Subramanian
Experiences in the school library usage as a guideline for planning information literacy programmes: with special reference to the new entrants of LLB programme at University of Peradeniya	Pradeepa Wijetunge & Champa N. K. Alahakoon
Promoting book corner at Early Childhood Development of Centers (ECDC) at Mihinthale	K.R.N. Harshani
An assessment of information literacy among school teachers in Nallur Division of Jaffna District	R. Kupesan & N. Sivathanan
Expectations from academic libraries among students in an international university institute in Sri Lanka: a case study of American National College	Hasitha Koralage
Prior Experiences of library usage of the new entrants: with special reference to Bachelor of Arts undergraduates, University of Peradeniya	Pradeepa Wijetunge and B.N.G.S. Premarathne

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Identifying specific needs/challenges of different LIS sectors in Sri Lanka

The Strategic Planning and Strategic Directions Committee (SPSDC) of SLLA has launched a programme to identify specific needs or challenges of each LIS sector in the country. This will be the first exercise of phase 2 of the project, which aims to identify strategic directions or priorities of SLLA for the next 5 to 10 year period. Under the phase 1 of the project, SPSPDC has completed the following.

- 1) Conducted a SWOT Analysis on the activities of the SLLA,
- 2) Identified best practices of leading Library Associations of the world,
- 3) Studied the guidelines and directions of IFLA on the subject,
- 4) Conducted an Opinion Survey to ascertain the views of SLLA membership and
- 5) Carried out a preliminary study on the contribution of SLLA towards different LIS sectors in the country during last 25 year (1990-2015) period.

SPSPDC decided to appoint a set of sub committees to identify the specific needs and pinpoint the areas that need special attention of each LIS sector. From the above study (No.5), it was revealed that SLLA was not that successful in contributing meaningfully by addressing the major problems, constraints of different LIS sectors in the country. The SPSPDC is keen to correct the deficiency by identifying weaknesses, challenges of each LIS sector and include them in strategic directions of the association. These sub committees comprise a number of SPSPDC members and the Representative/Convener of the particular professional group of the SLLA. The committees have been empowered to incorporate a few other members if necessary.

- 1) **National Library and Provincial Central Libraries Sub Committee:** Mr. Upali Amarasiri (Convener), Mr. W. Sunil, Mr. P B Gallaba, Ms. Senani Bandara
- 2) **Academic Libraries sub Committee:** Mr P B Gallaba (Convener), Dr. (Ms.) Pradeepa Wijetunge, Dr. (Ms.) Wathmanel Seneviratne, Mr. Harsha Balasooriya
- 3) **Special Libraries sub Committee:** Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe (Convener), Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya, Mr. B. G. N. Kumarasinghe
- 4) **Public Libraries sub Committee:** Prof. Russell Bowden / Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi, (Conveners) Ms. Dolitha Andradi, Ms. Sevbandi Jayasinghe
- 5) **School Libraries sub Committee:** Mr. Upali Amarasiri (Convener), Prof. Russell Bowden, Ms. Chandini Senarath.
- 6) **Government Libraries sub Committee:** Ms. Dolitha Andradi (Convener), Ms. Sumithra Meegasmulla, Ms. Urika Munasinghe
- 7) **Library Education & Training sub Committee:** Prof. Russell Bowden / Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne, (Conveners) Dr. Ruwan Gamage

SPSPDC requests SLLA members those who wish to join the exercise by identifying the challenges or weaknesses of one or more LIS sectors to forward their submissions to the respective Conveners of the sub committees or to the Convener of SPSPDC Mr. Upali Amarasiri.

Training Programme for Group Conveners

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) conducted a half day training programme for all Conveners of regular committees and groups at the SLLA on the 13th August 2015. The objective was to guide them to conduct programmes and enhance their leadership skills as conveners / leaders. The resource person of this event was Mrs. Deepali Thalagala. All Group Conveners participated in this programme.

National Environmental Information Centre (NEIC)

One of the main objectives of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) is the provision of information and education to the public regarding protection and improvement of the environment. To fulfill this objective, CEA established a library in 1984, and named it the National Environmental Information Centre in 1993. The Centre has initiated a number of information services, developing and strengthening the library resources.

The National Environmental Information Centre plays different roles in performing its services.

- Acts as the centre of environmental information activities in Sri Lanka. Plays a key role in the organizations that are interested in environmental matters.
- Collects, organizes and preserves published and unpublished documents on environmental matters nationally and internationally.
- Functions as the focal point of international and regional environmental information systems which promote exchange and transfer of information.
- Entertains queries on information sources, persons and organizations and directs them to appropriate organizations.
- Serves as a distributing centre for environmental publications.

Target beneficiaries: Environmental Managers, Scientists, Researchers, Policy Makers, Academics, Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, Administrators, Technologists, Journalists, Information Scientists, Extension Workers, Students and the General Public.

Subject coverage: Environmental Management, Environmental Law, Environmental Conservation, Ecology, Environmental Information, Natural Resources, Natural Hazards, Environmental Degradation, Atmosphere, Human Ecology & Environmental related subjects such as health, industry, agriculture, urban planning, energy, construction, fisheries, transportation, irrigation and land use.

Library Services

Inquiry Service -The Centre operates an inquiry service for clients. Inquiries could be channeled by telephone, in writing or in person.

Reference Service - The Centre is open for reference during working hours. Photocopying facilities are provided when necessary.

Current Awareness Service - The staff of the CEA are kept informed of the material available in the library in their specific fields of interest, either manually or through e-mail. Environmental Content Service, New Accessions and Newspaper/Journal Index are used in providing this service.

Online Searching Service - The entire catalogue of the Centre and a large collection of newspaper and journal articles related to environment are available online.

Special Collections: CEA Publications; Environmental Impact Assessment Reports/ IEE Reports; Acts & Regulations related to Environment; Maps, Environmental Educational Materials, CD-ROMs, Pamphlets & Newsletters etc.

The National Environmental Information Centre established environmental libraries to satisfy the information needs of external users at regional and district level. Under this project three libraries were established at the Nature Field Centres of Roomassala (Galle District), Bellanwila – Attidiya (Colombo District) and Randenigala (Kegalle District) in the year 2012. These libraries maintain their collections focused on environmental subjects to support the environmental awareness programs conducted by the relevant Nature Field Centres. In the same year, NEIC established a school library in Walikanda MMV, Polonnaruwa and provided books, library racks and tables, a computer etc. worth Rs 1.2 million.



Library, Roomassala



Library, Kegalle



Library Walikanda MMV,
Polonnaruwa District

(Cont'd on Page 08)

The keynote address by Prof. Sampath Amarathunge, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, at the 55th Annual Sessions of the SLLA. (Excerpted)

We are all aware that this is the information age. I believe that the librarian is the most important person of this era because you are the manager of information and the library is the center of excellence. Your role has always been evolving through human history from guardian of knowledge and caretaker to what you are today. We have passed a historical era, both in Western and Eastern societies where books and the knowledge contained in them could not be accessed at all. In some cases, this right was the privilege of a few. But with the onset of the technological revolution making knowledge and information accessible to all there has been a dramatic change. This has reshaped and redefined your role as librarians because now you cannot claim that you are the sole guardians of knowledge and information. This is a fact.

Recently I read a guideline for an advocacy program launched by the American Library Association, which raised the following questions. Isn't Amazon.com going to put public libraries out of business? Why do school libraries need money for books when everything is online? Why do we need a campus library when students can do their research on the internet?

Technology has, while vastly changing the mode of information access, enhanced library and information services. It has however, left unresolved questions and challenges. We, the academic community of this country, have a crucial role to play in finding solutions and overcoming these challenges.

Francis Bacon, the 17th Century English philosopher and statesman, once said: "Reading Maketh a Full Man". In my opinion, our entire society has deviated from this noble habit. I lived in Japan for seven years and I was surprised at how much time people spent reading.

Let me tell you frankly that our libraries are almost isolated, university libraries as well. This is not due to lack of books. Our libraries have books worth millions of rupees. The problem is related to our adaptation, to our lack of innovation, to our perspectives and attitudes. How many of our libraries offer internet zones, Wi-Fi facilities, a modernized environment, clean wash rooms, efficiency, a friendly service and a lobby to discuss the chapter of a book? Rather, the experience of most of our people with libraries is of gloomy surroundings, iron bookshelves, dusty books, uncomfortable chairs and unclean washrooms. All these often project a cramped, dull, prisonlike environment. Can we then expect people to suddenly transform into an enthusiastic reading crowd, without making the necessary changes on our part first?

Initiatives have been taken in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura after I became the Vice Chancellor. All our initiatives are driven by this conviction that the library is the heart of the university. Hence, we have started a modernization project headed by the library committee. We are in the process of establishing a free internet lobby for students with fifty computers. We will make laptops available at the main counter so that a student – let us say a Samurdhi student - can borrow the laptop, complete his assignment in the reading room, and return the machine, just like he borrows a book for reference and returns it. Remember that, in the absence of such a facility, our students have to pay money to the outside cyber cafes. Additionally, we are also going to install Nescafe machines in the library, also to open the library at 5a.m.

We have never been hindered by the costs as far as the benefits they provide to the student community are concerned. So you see we are adopting a varied approach, catering to the diverse needs of our students in order to make the library a reader-friendly place. We need this diversification. With this we can make our students gather in the library. Without this we will make them gather at the Lipton roundabout. This is the power of change. Books or journals worth millions of rupees are not the only answer to our problems.

A staff with excellent qualifications having completed postgraduate degrees, having participated in foreign training, is not the answer. If our library is the same as the one we had in the past, then we have not realized our own worth. We have not given our maximum. Let me tell you that when I was the Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, I allocated a number of places for the students to engage in reading, to engage in their studies. These places are equipped with fans, Wi-Fi, washrooms, and other necessary amenities. Now I see that there is competition among students to get a seat there- you can see students even at 12 at their studies. These Halls have no designated names, but the students call them "Sampath Halls".

Therefore we have to always remember that we are in a technological era with a young generation of people who are always two-steps ahead of us with respect to knowledge and the usage of technology. They perceive the world rather differently from us. This is where the University Librarian has to get the booklist from the Heads of Departments on time. This is where our priorities should change. This is where we should re-think and re-design. In brief, this is where your role as the librarian has to be reshaped and redefined. Nobody does it for you. Or you should not wait till somebody else does so. You are already making a tremendous effort to adapt, innovate, and transform. But through some collective efforts, some insight, some more commitment, you can do miracles, A miracles can really happen.

Request

SLLA Newsletter is a bulletin intended to cater to the SLLA membership, students and all others connected with Library and Information Services. Its main aim is to exchange and disseminate news and views among the membership. The contents include SLLA activities, professional and educational matters, international training events, conferences, seminars, workshops etc.

Please co-operate with the Publication Officer by sending articles, news items, information on new appointments etc. related to the Library and Information Science field to be published in the next issue of the SLLA Newsletter, and henceforth.

Publication Officer
bgskariyawasam@gmail.com

Sri Lanka Library Review

The Publication Committee wishes to receive articles from the members for the next issue in June 2016. Articles will be accepted till 15th of January 2016. Please refer the SLLA website (<http://www.slla.org.lk>) for guidelines on submitting articles. You may submit articles written in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Please send your contribution to the Publication Officer (bgskariyawasam@gmail.com) in electronic format.

INFOCUS

The SLLA Publication Group intends to highlight one library with its special features in each Newsletter. If you wish others to know about your library, please email a write-up accompanied with photographs to the Publication Officer. (bgskariyawasam@yahoo.com)

இலங்கை நூலக சங்கத்தின் வெளியீட்டுக் குழுவானது அதன் ஒவ்வொரு செய்திப் பிரசுரத்திலும் ஒரு நூலகம் பற்றியும் அதன் சிறப்புகள் பற்றியும் எடுத்துக்காட்ட எண்ணியுள்ளது. உங்கள் நூலகம் பற்றி பிறர் அறிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும் என நீங்கள் விரும்பினால் உங்கள் நூலகம் பற்றிய விபரங்களை புகைப்படங்களுடன் வெளியீட்டு அலுவலருக்கு மின் அஞ்சல் மூலம் (bgskariyawasam@yahoo.com) அனுப்பி வைக்கவும்.

පුස්තකාලයාධිපතින් සහ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ පාසල් සිසුන් සඳහා ජාතික පුස්තකාලය සහ එහි කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව දැනුවත් කිරීමේ ප්‍රදර්ශනයක් සහ සම්මන්ත්‍රණයක්

ජාතික පුස්තකාලයට වසර 25ක් පිරීම නිමිත්තෙන් එහි කාර්යයන් පිළිබඳව සහ මහගත්කරු මාර්ටින් වික්‍රමසිංහ මැතිතුමන් පිළිබඳව දැනුවත් කිරීමේ සම්මන්ත්‍රණයක් සහ ප්‍රදර්ශනයක් යාපනය දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ මහජන පුස්තකාලවල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතින්, විශ්වවිද්‍යාල පුස්තකාලයාධිපතින් සහ ප්‍රදේශයේ ප්‍රධාන පාසල්වල ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන් ඉලක්ක කර ගනිමින් යාපනය මහජන පුස්තකාල ශ්‍රවණාගාරයේදී පැවැත්වීමට ජාතික පුස්තකාලයේ මිතුරෝ සංවිධානය කටයුතු සම්පාදනය කර ඇත.

National Library of Sri Lanka celebrates 25th Anniversary

Inauguration Ceremony of the 25th Anniversary

Inauguration Ceremony organized to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Library of Sri Lanka on 5th August 2015 at Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN SOUTH ASIA

The National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka held an International Conference with the main objective of strengthening cooperation among national libraries in South and Southeast Asia, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Library. The conference was held in Global Towers Hotel, Colombo 06 on 6th August 2015. Directors and representatives from National Libraries from the region attended this event.



(Cont'd from Page 05)

Under the Five Year Action Plan of CEA, The National Environmental Information Centre has decided to develop the environmental sections of school libraries at district level. Under this programme, five school libraries with minimum facilities from Matale, Jaffna, Badulla, Anuradhapura and Gampaha districts were selected to be provided with library books and cupboards in 2015.

Donation programmes were held in July 2015 at Ovilikanda MMV Matale, Velani College Jaffna and Dambana Kanishta Vidyalaya, Dambana



Velani College, Jaffna



Dambana Kanishta Vidyalaya, Dambana



Ovilikanda MMV, Matale

Service Hours

The NIE centre is open to clients from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm on weekdays.

Contact: Chandrika Dabare, Senior Librarian,
Central Environmental Authority, Battaramulla.
Tel: 011 2876642, Email :chand@cea.lk

A modern librarian, who has faith in the law that 'BOOKS ARE FOR USE,' is happy only when his readers make his shelves constantly empty. It is not the books that go out that worry him. It is the stay-at-home volumes that perplex and depress him.

- S. R. Ranganathan

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