SLLA NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Bulletin of the Sri Lanka Library Association

A Futuristic View of Knowledge and Information Management

Excerpts from an article by Susan McKnight
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Library Futures – 2010

Libraries have skilled staff with professional expertise that can be leveraged to rise to the challenge of Web 2.0, not only in collection and preservation, but also in user-centred services. They are also the guardians of a long tradition of a public service ethic which will increasingly be needed to deal with the privacy and legal issues raised by Web 2.0.

Library staff should be encouraged to think and act pro-actively about how they can bring this to bear on the development of new, library and information service-based technologies….

Vale the Catalogue

The advent of new applications, such as Primo®, may spell the end of the library management system as we know it today. The future of the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) must be limited, as an artifact that served libraries well when catalogues, in the main, described what was physically held in the library.

The future 'catalogue' looks more like Amazon, enabling readers to add comments to catalogue records, in addition to including thumbnail images of book jackets etc. that we have become used to with enhanced catalogue records. Federated searching will go beyond what we know today, linking readers to resources held within the library, hosted within the institution, external resources licensed for remote access, and will provide "situation-specific delivery options that the user can act on". Already through the 'Get It' plug-in developed by the Rethinking Resource Sharing Forum and the manifesto it has developed, we can imagine a resource discovery system much like Google with a delivery option included, making it possible for an individual to request: a loan, borrow and buy, copy to print, copy to digital, or outright purchase of an item of interest.

Our customer's expectations have moved from 'discover, locate, request and deliver' to 'find and get' and our systems must develop to accommodate this, and quickly or our customers will find another service provider who will.

Should this type of service become common place, it would seem likely that the backend systems in the traditional integrated library management system (acquisitions, cataloguing, and circulation) will be decoupled. Thus 'vale the catalogue'!

Cataloguers, on the other hand, I predict will have a busy future, using their professional skills to managing non-library-type information resources, especially those housed in institutional repositories and content management systems. With the advent of the Semantic Web, perhaps metadata will become less important, but someone has to be concerned with authority control for precision recall.

Reference and enquiry services

Virtual Reference Services, facilitating the creation of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), knowledge gained from retiring or leaving library staff at exit interviews and other sources on knowledge gathering, perhaps through the performance review process, will inform expert systems that are accessible online 24 x 7 to library staff and customers.

"Information kiosks, available on all floors of a library, will take the place of satellite physical reference desks, or reference desks at small campuses that do not warrant the presence of full-time librarians during all opening hours. These kiosks will enable access to FAQs, chat with a librarian, and online help in context of searches. To date, there has not been a huge uptake in 'follow-the-sun' reference services, where library callers speak with a librarian who may be in another country/time zone to provide 24 x 7 reference support. …"

EDITORIAL

In this issue Susan Mcknight's views on the future librarians is an eye opener to all of us librarians. She enlightens on the new areas in librarianship that will be important in the future. Unfortunately the complete article could not be accommodated due to lack of space hence I quote some of her views here.

"Regardless of whether an organisation calls its strategy Knowledge Management or Information Management, library and information professionals have a significant role and expertise in managing vast amounts of information, of enhancing information resource discovery, ensuring quality control, providing information management and information literacy skills training, and connecting people with the resources they require. Therefore, the future of Knowledge Management and Information Management should be something that librarians embrace….".

How far have we gone in this? With the initiative of our working- committee members   we have conducted seminars and workshops regularly to provide training and to enhance and update professional knowledge which have been well received by the librarians and those who work in libraries. The highlight of this venture is the National Conference in Library and Information Studies. Now, we, the librarians should come forth on implementation of these futuristic activities.

According Susan McKnight… "another reason we should become more engaged in a debate on developing and implementing Knowledge Management and Information Management strategies, as opposed to managing 'library information resources', is to help citizens participate in society…...".

We need to look further and introduce outreach activities in our libraries, especially in the public and school libraries. As we all re aware, this is already being implemented in some libraries and this does not omit the other types of libraries like special libraries in the corporate sector where the organisation's record management is implemented by the library.

McKnight further states that "Library and information professionals have long been associated with authoritative and quality assured information resources. …..This role for librarians becomes even more important in the future, with the petabytes of words on web sites around the world, in blogs and in published (including self published) works."

When we think about futuristic plans it is inevitable that the librarians need to enhance their skills in using ICT. It is disappointing that the remote areas in the country is not yet connected to ICT due to unavoidable reasons but what is disheartening is that even where the hardware is available that the library professionals are not making use of it due to lack of skills in ICT applications. This is an area that the SLLA and other LIS training institutes should consider seriously.

> **"The joys of librarianship come from the endless opportunities to learn new things and to teach others. Be passionate about whatever you do. "-Rich Gause**

A Futuristic View of Knowledge . . . .

Information Literacy

Individuals are faced with diverse information choices in their studies, in the workplace, and in their lives. Information is available through community resources, special interest organisations, manufacturers and service providers, media, libraries, and the internet. Increasingly, information comes unfiltered. This raises questions about authenticity, validity, and reliability. In addition, information is available through multiple media, including graphical, aural, and textual. These pose special challenges in evaluating, understanding and using information in an ethical and legal manner. The uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information also pose large challenges for society.

Sheer abundance of information and technology will not in itself create more informed citizens *without* a complementary understanding and capacity to use information effectively." *Australian and New Zealand Information Literacy Framework: Principles, standards and practice* 2004.The information environment is even more complex now, so the effort that librarians make in developing information-literate citizens is even more important. Hopefully, by 2010, in universities at least, developing skills in information literacy will be imbedded into the curriculum, taking it from a non-compulsory addition
to lectures to a mandatory and in-context part of a student's learning.

SLLA ACTIVITIES

48th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association

Our AGM for 2008, which is the 48th meeting is scheduled to be held on the 25th June 2008 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute Auditorium, Colombo 07. The inaugural session will be held in the morning followed by the annual general meeting in the afternoon. At the inaugural session the presentation of awards and certificates will take place.

National Conference on Library and Information Studies – (NACLIS) 2008

The annual conference of our association which is the window to our professionals to air their professional views, ideas and opinions on studies conducted on research and development in the sphere of library and information studies is scheduled to be held on the 24rd June 2008 prior to our AGM on the following day.

This has been an exceptionally successful event that we can be proud of as many a member has presented papers of immense value to our profession at this conference.

This year ten papers will be presented on different aspects in our profession not to mention the development and expansion into ICT. Of particular note is the presentation of a paper by the well known LIS specialist, Prof.Neelameghan, Hon. Visiting Professor, Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), ISI, Bangalore , India.

Registration Fees:

SLLA Members - SLR 1000.00	Students - SLR 750.00
Non-members - SLR 1250/-	SAARC Countries - US$ 75.00
Presenters of Papers - SLR 750/-	Others - US$ 125.00

We hope that all members will grace these two important occasions in our profession.

Education and Training

COLA 2008/2009 : Course on Library Automation (COLA) will commence in May 2008.

For more information please contact:

SLLA Office: (011) 2589103

slliba@yahoo.com

GENISIS Workshop :

SLLA, NGO Library Group has organized a workshop on "Creating an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) using GenISIS ". The workshop is aimed at training and educating library professionals on publishing bibliographic databases created using WinISIS, on the web. The OPACs help dissemination of information very effectively as they can be accessed through Internet.

The workshop is scheduled to be held during the last week of May. The participants should have basic knowledge in WINISIS and HTML and will be selected on first come first served basis.

Contact: (011) 2589103   slliba@yahoo.com

SLLA ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation of Tsunami Affected Libraries Project

Andaragasyaya Junior School library which was rehabilitated by SLLA is now open to the public twice a week after school to enable the teenage and adolescent children in the area to make use of the library. The library collection includes some donated books which are more suitable to teenagers and adolescents. We were informed that this step was taken since that neighbourhood does not have better equipped libraries for the benefit of the community. This also would enhance the relationship of the school with the community.

Vice President , SLLA invited as a resource person at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab

Mr J A Amaraweera, Vice President SLLA , Chief Librarian - Buddhist and Pali University, Colombo and member of the Asia Pacific Networking Group (APNG) conducted a series of lectures on IT application in libraries, Internet search, websites and digital information sources and their uses for the M LIS students at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India from 14 - 25 February 2008. He was invited to deliver these lectures as a visiting Fellow.

An Ombudsman for SLLA

The Executive Committee of the SLLA at its meeting held on the 29th February 2008 appointed Ms Geetha David as the Ombudsman of the SLLA. You may contact her through the SLLA office with your grievances in your career as librarians. Apart from this office Ms David works as the counselor to our students and members.

Correction to the SLLA committees published in the Newsletter January 2008
LIS Research Committee

Ms. Harshani Dissanayake (Convener)   Ms. Nanda Perera
Mr. Upali Amarasiri   Ms. K.S.K. Pathiratne
Mr. L.A. Jayatissa   Mr. D.G.I.K. Dassanayake
Mr. J.A. Amaraweera   Mr. W.M. T.D. Ranasinghe

Congratulations!

To our President Professor Piyadasa Ranasinghe who was awarded the professorship in LIS at the University of Kelaniya. Prof. Ranasinghe is the Head of the LIS Department of the University of Kelaniya. We wish him good luck and success in his new position.

Padma Bandaranayake, new Library Director, American Center
After serving more than 10 years at the National Library Ms. Bandaranayake has taken up the Library Director position at the American Center. While congratulating Ms. Bandaranayake, We wish Ms Deepali Talagala, the former American Centre Library Director and a live wire of the SLLA, a happy retirement.

Ms. Amara Nanayakkara, Librarian, BCIS
Our congratulations to Ms. Nanayakkara, on her new post as the Librarian, BCIS. Before taking up this position she served at the National Library for more than 30 years.

News about members?
We welcome any news about our members to be included in the Newsletter.
Please send to: publications.slla@gmail.com or slliba@yahoo.cm

ACHIEVMENTS AND ENDEVOURS OF MEMBER LIBRARIANS

A Library achieves ISO 9001: 2000 Certification

The Information Services Centre of the Industrial Technology Institute (formerly CISIR) obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification in August 2006, thus becoming the first library in the country to do so according to this standard. The fact that they were also successful in the surveillance audit which was carried out an year after the initial certification, shows the continued commitment to maintaining a quality system.

Ms.Dilmani Warnasuriya   Ms.Harshani Dissanyake

The library embarked on its journey towards obtaining such certification, when some of the testing laboratories of the Institute, obtained local and internals accreditation. Mrs.Harshani Dissanayake was appointed the Management Representative, and with Mrs. Dilmani Warnasuriya as the approving authority as required by the standard, work commenced with a detailed study of the standard and its requirements ,.

One of the key features of the standard in, is that pride of place is given to satisfying the customers or clients of the organization. In order to accomplish this, a well planned quality management system should be established, with the streamlining of all services and its accompanying procedures. The underlying principle behind such a system is that all procedures and processes should be so well documented that any person in the organization should be able to accomplish any tasks, by merely following the steps laid down.

The first step in this   venture was to then to identify the procedures in the Centre, and then flowchart them in detail. These charts laid the foundation for the procedure manual which was a part of the mandatory quality manual. The ITI was able to identify over twenty five procedures. The setting down of the quality policy of the centre, and the objectives of the centre were the next step and once these were all documented to everyone's satisfaction, the complete quality manual was compiled. The laying down of broad objectives followed by corresponding specific measurable objectives, ensures that the performance of the organization can be measured according to the set down targets. These measurable objectives are statistically analysed monthly to determine whether the targets are being met, and if not to devise strategies to meet them.

Other areas which are emphasized in the standard are the continual improvement of all services, which goes hand in hand with providing customer satisfaction. For this purpose, records were maintained of all shortcomings and problems encountered in the day to day running of the library, so that'corrective action' could be taken to remedy them. To illustrate a case in point in a library, if a book was allegedly borrowed according to the library records, but was actually found on the shelf, investigations into how this happened will follow, and steps taken to prevent such a occurrence. Another salient feature which comes under continual improvement, is 'preventive action' where possible errors in the system are identified and action taken to prevent them from occurring.

Leaders is another feature emphasised in the standard, and each member of the organization is expected to take responsibility for the different tasks. This practice motivates the staff, and cultivates team work to a great extent.

The success of the ITI Information Services centre in achieving this milestone can be attributed to the commitment and dedication shown by the entire staff of Centre, with the leadership provided by Ms.Harshani Dissanyake the Management Representative, and Ms.Dilmani Warnasuriya, Head of the Section and the approving authority.

We welcome your success story as a librarian to be published in the Achievements and Endevours of Member Librarians column in the newsletter. Please do send us a note, maximum one A4 size with any photographs to be published in the next issue.

A Futuristic View of Knowledge . . . .

Dealing with plagiarism is an increasing need in educational institutions and information literacy skills development has to take on this issue as well as teaching how and when to cite references appropriately. This will work best if done in collaboration with academic staff who can reinforce expectations in the classroom (real or virtual). And this brings me to my final set of predictions for the future 2010: the library and information professional.

Conclusion

The terms 'knowledge economy' or 'information society' are synonymously and commonly used, as are Knowledge Management and Information Management. Helen Hayes, in her paper "The role of libraries in the knowledge economy" in 2004 challenged librarians to engage in the knowledge economy, citing: globalization; technological advances; and the importance of knowledge/information for the economy as drivers. She further cited four barriers to effective use of knowledge: content overload; impeded (technical) connectivity; lack of competence in evaluating and using information; and lack of willingness to collaborate. In 2007, the drivers remain the same. However, the barriers are being broken down. Technological barriers to connectivity are greatly reduced; and with Web 2.0 the notion of collaboration and sharing is alive and well, if mainly in a social context; and content management and federated searching are becoming items on the agenda of most organisational IT departments and libraries. There is more to do in bringing the notion of collaboration and sharing into the workplace; and the issues of information literacy/competencies remain a challenge.

The current focus on Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 demonstrates the importance of individual expectations. Libraries have 'long tails'. There are many information resources that we manage now that are in low demand. We have to make these more accessible to the individual for which it is just the right piece of information. We will have to use Knowledge Management and Information Management techniques to make hidden data sources available. If we are to maximise value to customers, we will have to **ASK** them what they want. We cannot assume that we know and understand their expectations and needs.

සිංහල යුනිකේතයේ 'අ' යන්න

රුවන් ගමගේ

අන්තර්ජාලයේ සිංහල වෙබ් අඩවි බොහෝ ශීඝුයෙන් වැඩෙනවා. මුලින් ඇරඹුණු සාමාන්‍ය සිංහල වෙබ් අඩවිවල සිට පුවත්පත් දක්වා සියල්ල සැරසුනේ එක් එක් ආයතන හා පුද්ගලයන් විසින් තම අභිමතය පරිදි නිමැවූ අකුරු (ෆොන්ට්) වර්ග වලින්. නමුත් ඒ ඒ වෙබ් අඩවිය කියවීම සඳහා ඒ ඒ අකුරු වර්ගය බාගත (ඩවුන්ලෝඩ්) කළ යුතු වීම ගැටලුවක් වුණා. අනෙක, 'අ' නමැති පුවත්පත අද එක් පරිගණකයකින් කියවා හෙට වෙනත් පරිගණකයකින් කියවන්නට යන විට හෙටත් එම අකුරු වර්ගය බාගත කළ යුතු යි. මන්ද නව පරිගණකයේ එම අකුර නැති නිසා.

වෙබ් අඩවිවල තත්ත්වය එසේ වන අතර, පුස්තකාල මෘදුකාංග බොහොමයකට යුනිකේත නොවන අකුරු (ඉහත සඳහන් කළ විවිධ ෆොන්ට් වර්ග) සමග සහයෝගයෙන් කටයුතු කිරීමට හැකි වූයේ නැහැ (අපේ ඇතැම් නිර්මාණශීලීන් මෙවැනි තත්ත්වයක් යටතේ වුවත් සාර්ථකව අත්හදා බැලීම් කළ බව අමතක නොකළ යුතු යි. සාමාන්‍ය අක්ෂර භාවිතයෙන් ඉසුරු පුස්තකාල මෘදුකාංගය සිංහලෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම මීට එක් උදාහරණයක්).

නමුත් දැන් අප එක් සම්මතයක් අනුව නිපදවුණු අකුරු භාවිත කරන යුගයට ඇවිත් තිබෙනවා. මෙය ලංකාවට පමණක් නොව, ලෝකයට ම සම්මතයක්. එනිසා එය හැදින්වෙන්නේ යුනිකේත නමින්. එය ඇතැම්විට විශ්ව කේත නමින් ද හැදින්වෙනවා. මේ අනුව සිංහල යුනිකේත (සියු) යනු සම්පූර්ණ යුනිකේතයේ එක් පංගුවක් පමණයි.

යුනිකේත අකුරු භාවිත වන වෙබ් අඩවියක් නැරඹීමට වෙනත් අකුරු බාගත කළ යුතු නැහැ. ඇතැම් වාණිජ පුස්තකාල මෘදුකාංගත්, නවීන විවෘතකේත (open source) මෘදුකාංග බොහොමයකුත් සියු සඳහා සහයෝගය දක්වනවා.

2007 මාර්තු 14 වැනි දින ජනාධිපති කාර්යාලය මගින් නිකුත් කරන ලද අංක SP/SB/01/07 දරණ වකුලේබය මගින්, රජයේ සියලු කටයුතු සඳහා (සිංහල) යුනිකේත අනුගත අක්ෂර භාවිත කිරීමට සියලුම රජයේ කාර්යාලවලට නියම කරනු ලැබුවා.

Unicode යන්න uni සහ code යන පද බිඳි සෑදුනකි. යුනිකේත හඳුන්වා දීමේ මූලිකයකු වූ ජෝස ජේ බෙකර් මෙම නම යෝජනා කිරීමට හේතු වූයේ එහි ඇති සුවිශේෂ කරුණු තුනක් නිසයි. එනම්, universal (විශ්වීය), unique (අනන්‍ය), සහ uniform (ඒකීය) යන ගුණාංගයි. යුනි යන සංකල්පය ආසන්නව නිරූපණය වන්නේ "ඒක" යන පදයෙන් නමුත් ඒකකේත යන්නෙන් මුළු අදහස ජනනය වන්නේ නැහැ. එනිසා වඩා සුදුසු සිංහල පදය වන්නේ යුනිකේත යන්න යි.

NEWS AND EVENTS

2008 - Year of Outreach:

University of Kelaniya has declared year 2008 as the "Year of Outreach" and the Department of LIS has organized a national congress on out reach for public librarians concluding with a general congress.

Librarian's World.com is a network of Librarians & Information Scientists. It offers many facilities with an objective of better networking & knowledge sharing amongst Librarians. Everyone who is interested in Library Science , Knowledge Management etc is welcome to contribute content of this site.
www.librariansworld.com/index.asp

Google Librarian Central

http://librariancentral.blogspot.com

IFLA 2008

World Library and Information Congress : 74th IFLA General Conference and Council. Quebec, Canada, 10-15 August 2008.
Theme: Libraries without borders: navigating towards global understanding.
For details :
www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm

Pathways to Leadership in the Library & Information World

Proceedings from the World Conference on Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning for the Library and Information Professions: "Continuing Professional Development: Pathways to Leadership in the Library & Information World", held in Johannesburg – South Africa in 2007, is now available as full text at:
www.ifla.org/V/pr/saur126.htm

සිංහල යුනිකේතයේ 'අ' යන්න.....

ලේක්හවුස් ආයතනයේ දිනමිණ, සිළුමිණ පුවත්පත් සියු භාවිතයෙන් අන්තර්ජාලය සරසන්නට වීම මෙම ගමන් මගේ විශාල ඉදිරි පියවරක් වුණා. මේ වන විට බොහෝ සිංහල වෙබ් අඩවි සියු භාවිතයෙන් සැකසෙනවා.

මේ ගමන තවත් බොහෝ ඉදිරියට යාවි! එසේ නම්, පුස්තකාලවේදීන් ලෙස අපත් මේ ගමනට තල්ලුවක් දිය යුතු වෙනවා. ඒ ඇයි?

1. අපේ පාඨකයන්ට සියු වෙබ් පිටු, ජාලගත පොත්පත් කියවීමට පහසුකම් සැපයීමට.
2. තොරතුරු මාධ්‍ය ප්‍රකාශනයට (පොත්පත්, සංගත තැටි).
3. සියු ඇසුරින් නව සේවා සැපයීමට (පාඨක ගැටලු නිරාකරණය, ඉ-පණිවුඩ දැනුවත්කිරීමේ සේවා, ආදිය)
4. අපේ සිංහල පොත්, රෝම අක්ෂර නැතිව සිංහලෙන් සෙවීමට මාර්ගගත පුස්තකාල සුවිය යොදා ගැනීමට.

සියු නිවැරදිව දර්ශනය වන්නේ වින්ඩෝස් XP මෙහෙයුම් පද්ධතිය (Service pack 2) පිහිටුවා ඇති පරිගණක මත යි. දැනට පවතින වාතාවරණය යටතේ සියු ලිපි ලේඛන කියවීම ඉතා පහසු වුවත්, ලිවීමට නම් ඒ සඳහා විශේෂිත මෘදුකාංගයක් බාගත කළ යුතු වෙනවා.

මේ කියැවුණේ සිංහල යුනිකේත ගැන ඉතා ම සරල හැඳින්වීමක්. සියු ඇසුරෙන් සකස් කළ ලේඛන සහ වෙබ් පිටු කියැවීම සහ ලිවීම පිළිබඳ වැඩිදුර විස්තර, ආශ්‍රය ග්‍රන්ථ ලේඛනයට පහළින් දැක්වෙන සම්පත්වලින් ලබා ගත හැකියි.

ඔබේ පරිගණකයටත් සිංහල/දමිළ සහය ලබා ගැනීමට අවශ්‍ය නම්, www.siyabas.lk වෙත ගොස් 'Get Sinhala' නමැති අයිකනය මත ක්ලික් කරන්න. එහි දැක්වෙන උපදෙස් අනුගමනය කිරීමෙන්, ඔබේ පරිගණකයටත් සිංහල/දමිළ කියවීමටත් ලිවීමටත් හැකි වේවි.

ආශ්‍රය

J. Bettels and F. Bishop, "Unicode: A Universal Character Code," Digital Technical Journal, vol. 5, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 21-31

මලලසේකර සිංහල-ඉංග්‍රීසි ශබ්දකෝෂය. ඇ.ම.ඩී. ගුණසේන සහ සමාගම. සංශෝධිත සිව්වැනි සංස්කරණය, 2000.

වෙබ් අඩවි හා ජාලගත ලිපි සහ මෙවලම්

1. Official Sinhala Unicode - www.siyabas.lk
2. Siyabas - how to install Sinhala Unicode www.locallanguages.lk/sinhala_how_to_install_in_english.html
3. Language Technology Research Laboratory - www.ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/ltrl/
4. Real Time Unicode Converter www.ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/ltrl/services/feconverter
5. Displaying Sinhala Characters when stored in Unicode. - http://www.fonts.lk/pdf/workshop-unicodesinhala-harsha(1).pdf
6. Sinhala Pali Unicode Sample Lesson X - www.xenotypetech.com/samplepdfs/PL_Sample.pdf
7. Wikipedia:Sinhala Font Guide - http://si.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Sinhala_Font_Guide
8. සිංහල යුනිකෝඩ් සමූහය - Sinhala Unicode Group.- http://groups.google.com/group/Sinhala-Unicode
9. Template:Unicode chart Sinhala - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Unicode_chart_Sinhala
10. Kaputa Sinhala Unicode Resources Center - http://www.kaputa.com/sinhalaunicode
11. Kaputa~UniWriter 2006 : Sinhala-Tamil-English+ Unicode Writer - www.kaputa.com/uniwriter

SLLA Goes Online
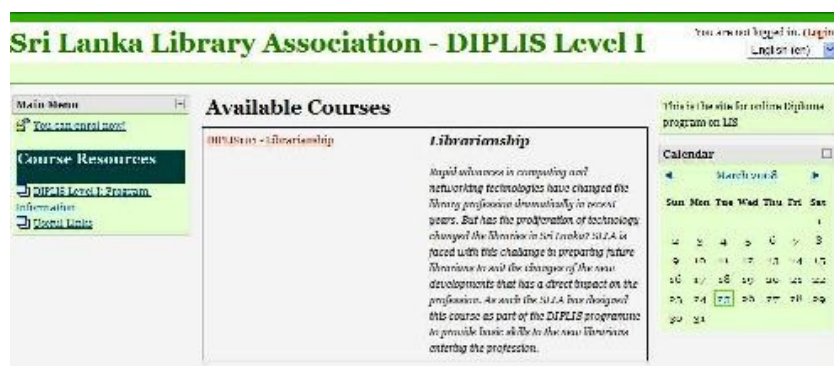
SLLA launched its online course on Diploma in Library & Information Science with 16 students. Anyone can access the course through Internet.

The project was sponsored by the Distance Education Modernization Project (DEMP) under the Distance Education Partnership Programme (DEPP). SLLA is one of the 7 pilot projects under this programme. This will enable students in any part of the country to follow the course. The DEMP office has established the National Distance Education Network (NDEN). The distance-learning network will be set up through the DEPP centre that will be linked to all OUSL campuses and to 150 public and private educational institutes. It will maintain hardware and software on a cost recovery basis. Already there are about 16 centres set up through out the country. These centres can be used by the students if they wish. This project is aimed at providing open and distance learning opportunities to those who are in remote areas.

Presently SLLA offers Level 1 of the DIPLIS course and intends to offer the other Levels also in the near future.

Economics and Banking Library Network of Sri Lanka

Annual Progress Review Meeting of the Economic & Banking Library Network of Sri Lanka (EbanklibnetSL) was held on 26 February 2008 at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
chaired by Mr. Asoka Handagama, Director/Communications, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Economics and Banking Library Network of Sri Lanka (ebanklibnetSL) was established in January 2002 with the aim of sharing information among economic and banking libraries in Sri Lanka through an email group maintained by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The membership is open to libraries in Sri Lanka specializing in banking, economics and finance.

The objectives of this network is to share current information, and library resources relevant to the areas of economics, banking and finance in a proactive and cost effective way. A working committee comprising 5 members meet quarterly to monitor the activities of the network group. The Chief Librarian of Central Bank of Sri Lanka is the Chairman of the working committee and the annual meeting of the network group.