



SLLA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33

NUMBER 03

JANUARY – MARCH 2017

ISSN 1391-2531

Seminar on Strategic Plan (2016-2022) of Sri Lanka Library Association

A half a day seminar on the implementation of the SLLA Strategic Plan (2016-2022) was held on 8th February 2017 at the OPA auditorium. Members of the SLLA Professional groups, Committees, Special Committees appointed by the SLLA which are responsible for the implementation of the plan and Council members attended the seminar. The Committee of Monitoring and Assisting in Implementation of the Strategic Plan (COMAISP) organized the seminar. Dr. (Ms) Pradeepa Wijetunge, President/SLLA, inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional oil lamp with other dignitaries and also delivering the welcome address. She thanked COMAISP for organizing the seminar which is invaluable in discussing and sharing the plans and strategies in implementing the Strategic Plan. Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe, Immediate Past President and Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya, Convener/COMAISP also addressed the inaugural session.



In the main session, Mr. Upali Amarasiri (Convener/Strategic Planning & Strategic Directions Committee - 2014/16) made a presentation titled 'Challenges in implementation of the SLLA Strategic Plan' where he discussed the challenges and difficulties in implementation the Strategic Plan and how to overcome them.

Then Ms. Iromi Wijesundara (Convener, Special Committee on Membership Development) presented a proposal on how SLLA can implement the membership drive. Ms. Harshani Dissanayake (Convener, Special Committee on preparation of an Operational Manual for SLLA office) made a presentation on Preparation of Operational Manual for the SLLA Office. Then Ms. Wathsala Kodituwakku (Convener, Information & Public Relation Committee), Ms. Sunethra Perera (Convener, Special Committee on Developing Digital Archives at the SLLA), Mr. Daminda Manamperi (Convener, Social Affairs Committee) followed with their action plans of respective Committees. Later Mr. Upali Amarasiri (Convener, Special Committee on Preparation Job Descriptions for SLLA Council members and Terms of Reference for the SLLA Professional Groups and Committees) and Mr. Punchi Banda Gallaba (Convener, Special Committee on Advocacy) made presentations on the action plans in implementing the Strategic Plan.

(Continued to page 02...)

IN THIS ISSUE

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|----|------|----------------|
| SLLA Strategic Plan | 01-04, 08 | SLLA Council & Executive Committee Members | 02 | News | 02, 05, 07- 08 |
| Announcement | 06 | In Focus | 06 | | |

SLLA COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016/2017.

President: Dr. (Mrs.) P. Wijetunge*

President Elect: Mrs. S. Arulanantham*

Immediate Past President: Mrs. S. Weerasinghe*

Vice President: Mr. A. Nallathamby*

General Secretary: Mrs. P. Bandaranayake*

Asst. General Secretary: Mr. M. S. M. Shiham*

Treasurer: Miss. L. Amerasekera*

Education Officer: Dr. R.C.G. Gamage*

Asst. Education Officer: Mr. H. P. Koralage*

Publications Officer: Mrs. N. Peiris*

Information & Public Relations Officer:
Miss. W. Kodituwakku*

Nominated Members for Council:

Mrs. D. Warnasuriya
Mr. P.B. Gallaba

Conveners of the Professional Groups:

Academic Libraries: Mrs. C. Gunasekera

Government Libraries: Miss. S. Meegasmulla

National Library: Mr. N. S. J. Edirisinghe

Public Libraries: Mrs. S. Jayasinghe

School Libraries: Mrs. C. Senarath

Special Libraries: Mr. B. G. N. Kumarasinghe

NACLIS Group: Mr. T. Ramanan

Provincial: Mr. T.G. Padmasiri

* Executive Committee Members

Nominated Members for Executive Committee:
Dr. (Mrs.) N. D. Wijayasundera
Mrs. V. Gangabadaarachchi

Continued from page 01...

After each presentation a lively discussion took place and suggestions were made for further improvement of the action plans. Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya (Convener/ COMAISP) proposed the Vote of thanks at the end of the seminar.



நூலக தகவல் விஞ்ஞான டிப்ளோமா பாடநெறி –மட்டம் 1 இற்கான ஆரம்ப நிகழ்வு

Inauguration of DIPLIS Programme of SLLA: Ceremony Held at Jaffna

இலங்கை நூலகச் சங்கத்தால் நடாத்தப்படும் நூலக தகவல் விஞ்ஞான டிப்ளோமா பாடநெறி – மட்டம் 1 இற்கான ஆரம்ப நிகழ்வு 11-03-2017 ம்திகதி காலை 9.00 மணிக்கு யாழ்ப்பாணம் பொதுநூலக கேட்போர் கூடத்தில் நடைபெற்றது.

இலங்கை நூலகச்சங்கத்தின் யாழ்ப்பாண நிலைய ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் திருமதி பொற்செல்வி ஸ்ரீரஞ்சன் தலைமையில் இடம்பெற்ற இந்நிகழ்வில் யாழ்ப்பாண பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பிரதம நூலகரும் இலங்கை நூலகச் சங்கத்தின் தெரிவுநிலைத் தலைவருமான ஸ்ரீகாந்தலட்சுமி அருளானந்தம், யாழ்ப்பாண பொதுநூலகத்தின் ஆரம்பகால நூலகராப் பணிபுரிந்த திருமதி ருபவதி நடராசா, யாழ்ப்பாண பொதுநூலக நூலகர் திருமதி சுகந்தி சதாசிவமூர்த்தி, நூலகவியல் விரிவுரையாளர்கள் திரு செ.பத்மநாதன் திருமு...சின்னராஜா ஆகியோர் மங்களவிளக்கேற்றி நிகழ்வை ஆரம்பித்து வைத்தனர். இந்நிகழ்வில் கற்கைநெறியினைத் தொடர்வதற்குப் பதிவுசெய்த மாணவர்கள் மற்றும் விரிவுரையாளர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.



Inauguration of DIPLIS Programme of SLLA: Ceremony Held at Colombo

Inauguration ceremony of Diploma of Library & Information Science (DIPLIS) Programmed offered by Sri Lanka Library Association was held on 25th February 2017 at the Seminar Room of National Library & Documentation Services Board.

Acting Education Officer, Mrs, S.Weerasinghe, Council members and the teaching faculty participated in this event. Students registered for DIPLIS programmed at Colombo, Kandy, & Galle Centers attended. Jaffna, Batticaloa and Badulla centers held the inauguration in respective centers.



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රස්තකාල සංගමයේ උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම ඇරඹේ

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රස්තකාල සංගමයේ උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම (2016-22) ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීමේ මුල් අදියර ලෙස එහි දක්වා ඇති ව්‍යාපෘතීන් 25 ක් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීම, සංගමයේ විද්වත් කමිටු සහ විශේෂ කමිටු මගින් ආරම්භ කර ඇත. මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතීන් බහුතරයක් ඉදිරි මාස 4-8 කාලය තුළ අවසන් කිරීමට නියමිත වේ.

උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම සම්පාදනයත්, ඒවා මනාව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීමත් ලොව ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රස්තකාල සංගම් සියල්ලම පාහේ තම ක්ෂේත්‍රයට හා සාමාජිකයන්ට උපරිම සේවා සැපයීම සඳහාත්, තම කටයුතු නවීකරණය සහ සාර්ථක කර ගැනීම සඳහාත් පොදුවේ අනුගමනය කරනු ලබන ක්‍රමවේදය වේ. 2016 අප සංගමයේ වාර්ෂික මහා සභාවේදී සම්මත වූ සංගමයේ මෙම ප්‍රථම උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම මගින් සාම්ප්‍රදායිකව ඉටුකරනු ලබන වෘත්තීය කටයුතුවලින් ඔබ්බට ගොස්, පුළුල් පරාසයක් තුළ පැතිර පවත්නා දේශීය ප්‍රස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ ගැටලු වලට ආමන්ත්‍රණය කරලීමටත්, ඒවා සඳහා විසඳුම් සෙවීමටත්, ඒ සමගම ප්‍රස්තකාල සංගමය තවදුරටත් ශක්තිමත් කරලීමටත් අවස්ථාව ලබා දී ඇත. සංගමයේ විද්වත් කමිටු සහ විශේෂ කමිටු මෙම අවස්ථාව උද්යෝගිමත්ව පිළිගැනීම සහ ඒ අනුව උනන්දුවෙන් කටයුතු කිරීම අනාගතය පිළිබඳ සුබ නිමිති වේ.

මෙම ඓතිහාසික කාර්යය සඳහා සංගමයේ නිලධාරීන් සහ විද්වත් කමිටුවලට අමතරව, ඒ පිළිබඳ උනන්දුවක් දක්වන සියලුම සාමාජිකයන්ට අවස්ථාව ලබාදීම අදාළ අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවේ සහ පාලක මණ්ඩලයේ අපේක්ෂාව වේ. සංගමයේ වෘත්තීය කටයුතුවලට ඵලදායී ලෙස දායක වීමට බොහෝ සාමාජිකයන් උනන්දුවක් දැක්වූව ද, මෙතෙක් පැවැති පොදු ගැටලුවක් වූයේ ඒ සඳහා පැහැදිලි, නිශ්චිත වැඩසටහනක් නොමැතිවීම වේ. මෙම උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම මගින් දේශීය ප්‍රස්තකාල ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ සෑම අංශයක්ම පාහේ ආවරණය කෙරෙන පුළුල් වැඩසටහනක් ද, එය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීම සඳහා යාන්ත්‍රණයක් සහ අරමුදල් ද සපයා ඇත.

උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීමට දායකවීමෙන් සංගමයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ සාමාජිකයන්ට තම හැකියාවන් හා වෘත්තීය අත්දැකීම් ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ උන්නතිය සඳහා ලබාදීමටත්, කාලයක් තිස්සේ පැවැති ගැටලු විසඳීමට සහාය වීමටත්, සැලැස්මේ ඇති දුබලතා පෙන්වා දී එය වැඩිදියුණු කරලීමටත්, මෙම සේවාවන් තුළින් සතුටක් සහ ආත්ම තෘප්තියක් ලබා ගැනීමටත් අවස්ථාව සැලසේ. අදාළ ව්‍යාපෘතීන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරලීමට සහායවීම මගින් සංගමයේ අනෙකුත් සාමාජිකයන්ට ද එමගින් සිදුවන පොදු යහපතට අමතරව, නව දැනුම හා අත්දැකීම් ලබා ගැනීමටත්, ජාතික මට්ටමේ ව්‍යාපෘති කළමනාකරණය පිළිබඳ අවබෝධයක් ලබා ගැනීමටත්, තම වෘත්තීය සහ නායකත්ව කුසලතා වර්ධනය කර ගැනීමටත් අවස්ථාව සැලසේ.

උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම සඳහා දායක වීමට කැමති සාමාජිකයන් පළමුව සැලැස්ම අධ්‍යයනය කොට තමන් සහභාගිවීමට කැමති අංශය, අදාළ උපාය මාර්ග සහ ඒ සඳහා යෝජිත වැඩසටහන් හඳුනා ගත යුතු වේ. තවත් සාමාජිකයන් 3-5 දක්වා සංඛ්‍යාවක් සහිතව කමිටුවක් පිහිටුවා ගෙන ඔවුන් සමඟ ද සාකච්ඡා කොට ව්‍යාපෘතිය සඳහා දළ ක්‍රියාකාරී සැලැස්මක් සකස් කර ගැනීම මිළඟ පියවරවේ. කමිටුවට අවශ්‍ය අනෙකුත් සාමාජිකයින් හඳුනා ගැනීම සඳහා අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවේ සහාය අවශ්‍යනම් ලබා ගත හැක.

අනතුරුව තම ව්‍යාපෘතිය පිළිබඳ කෙටි හැඳින්වීමක් සමඟ අදාළ ක්‍රියාකාරී සැලැස්ම, කමිටු සාමාජිකයන් පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු, අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවට (COMAISP) ඉදිරිපත් කළයුතු වේ. අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවේ නිර්දේශ සලකා බලා අදාළ විශේෂ කමිටු සඳහා අනුමැතිය ලබා දීම පාලක මණ්ඩලයේ කාර්යභාරය වේ. ව්‍යාපෘතියට සහභාගිවන සියලුම කමිටුවල අදාළ වෘත්තීය උපදෙස්, මඟ පෙන්වීම් සහ වෙනත් සහායයන් අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුව මගින් සැපයේ. විශේෂඥ උපදෙස් හෝ තාක්ෂණික සහාය අවශ්‍ය අවස්ථාවලදී ඒවා සපයනු ලැබේ. උපාය මාර්ගික සැලැස්ම ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමේ දී සාමාජිකයන් තම දායකත්වය හැකිතාක් දුරට ගරු සේවාවන් ලෙස ලබාදීම අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ. වෙනත් අවශ්‍ය වියදම් සඳහා මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය වෙනුවෙන් වෙන්කරඇති අරමුදලින් මුදල් ලබා ගත හැක. ඒ සඳහා ආරම්භයේ දී අයවැය ලේඛනයක් සකස් කොට අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවේ සහ පාලක මණ්ඩලයේ පූර්ව අනුමැතිය ලබා ගත යුතු වේ.

මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියට සම්බන්ධවීමේ කටයුතුවලදී යම් සහායයක් අවශ්‍යනම් අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවේ කැඳවුම්කරු ඩිල්මණි වර්ණසූරිය මහත්මිය (dilmanil.warnasuriya@gmail.com) හෝ එහි සාමාජිකයන් වන ශිවන්ති වීරසිංහ මහත්මිය (shivanthiweerasinghe@yahoo.com) හෝ උපාලි අමරසිරි මහතා (amarasiriupali22@gmail.com) වෙතින් විමසිය හැක.

Auspicious Start for SLLA Strategic Plan

The SLLA Strategic Plan (2016-22) got off to a promising start with 25 projects submitted by the Professional Groups & Committees and Special Committees of the SLLA. All projects are drawn from different key action areas of the Strategic Plan. Majority of the projects have already commenced and all are expected to be completed within the next 4 to 8 months. The under mentioned projects were approved by the monitoring committee (COMAISP) and SLLA Council.

Projects

National Library Group: (Convener – Mr. N. S. J. Edirisinghe) ‘Translation of 6 professional articles published in IFLA Journal on innovative National Library Services and Practices in 6 countries to assist in the modernization of the National Library of Sri Lanka’.

Academic Library Group: (Convener – Ms. C. Gunasekara) ‘Promotion of the SLLA Membership in the Academic Library Sector’.

Special Library Group: (Convener – Mr. B. G. N. Kumarasinghe) ‘Organizing a Webinar Series for the members of the Special Library sector for their capacity building’.

Government Library Group: (Convener – Ms. S. Meegasmulla) ‘Preparation of an Operational Manual for the Government Libraries in Sri Lanka’.

Public Library Group: (Convener – Ms. S. Jayasinghe) **Project 1:** ‘Develop a database on the architectural designs and photographs of modern Public Library buildings and interior designs’, **Project 2:** ‘Create a data base on library cadre vacancies of Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas; A pilot project covering two districts or a province’, **Project 3:** ‘Develop a collection of Library Standards, Guidelines, Legislations relevant to the Public Library sector issued by government, local government and provincial council authorities in Sri Lanka and the International agencies, organizations e.g. IFLA, UNESCO and other major Library Associations and authorities in other countries’.

School Library Group: (Convener – Ms. C. Senarath) **Project 1:** ‘Preparation of an Operational Manual for School Libraries in Sri Lanka’, **Project 2:** ‘Conducting a series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes for School Librarians and Teacher Librarians’, **Project 3:** ‘Develop a set of Library Standards for the School Library sector in Sri Lanka’.

Publication Committee: (Convener – Ms. N. Peiris) Translation of following IFLA publications in to Sinhala and Tamil. (1) ‘Guidelines for Planning and Digitization of Rare Books and Manuscripts collections’, (2) ‘IFLA School Library Guidelines’ (3) ‘IFLA Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development: Principles and Best Practices’, (4) ‘Statement of International Cataloguing Principles (ICP)’.

Information & Public Relation Committee: (Convener – Ms. W. Kodituwakku) **Project 1:** ‘Launch an e-newsletter, e-mail groups to enhance SLLA’s Public Relation’, **Project 2:** ‘Set up a Social Media group to promote SLLA and its activities’, **Project 3:** ‘Issue regular Press/media Releases on behalf of the SLLA’.

Social Affairs Committee: (Convener – Mr. P. D. Manamperi) ‘Conducting training programmes on Social Media’.

Provincial Library Group: (Convener – Mr. T. G. Padmasiri) ‘Formulation of a model Provincial Library Ordinance for Sri Lanka’ (Subject to submit a revised proposal).

Special Committee on Membership Development: (Convener- Ms. I. Wijesundara) **Project 1:** ‘Develop a database on non-SLLA LIS professionals in the country’, **Project 2:** ‘Produce promotional posters on SLLA to use in the membership drive campaign’.

Special Committee on preparing job description for SLLA Council members and Term of Reference (ToR) for SLLA Professional Groups and Committees’: (Convener- Mr. U. Amarasiri) **Project 1:** ‘Preparation of job descriptions for SLLA Council members’, **Project 2:** ‘Preparation of ToR for SLLA Professional Groups and Committees’.

Special Committee on developing a digital archives at SLLA: (Convener – Ms. S. Perera) ‘Develop a Digital Archives at SLLA through digitizing the SLLA official records, Publications, NACLIS proceedings etc., digitizing the Acts, Circulars and other relevant documents pertaining to all LIS sectors in Sri Lanka and acquiring soft copies of relevant publications of UNESCO, IFLA, IASL and other leading Library Associations’.

Special Committee on Preparation of Operation Manual for the SLLA Office: (Convener – Ms. H. Dissanayake) ‘Preparation of an Operation Manual for SLLA Office to enhance the productivity of the SLLA Office’.

Special Committee on studying the expansion of the non-corporate membership of SLLA and Simplification of Application and Acceptance procedure of SLLA Associate Membership: (Convener- Dr. Mrs. N. Wijesundera) **Project 1:** ‘Submit proposals on how to expand the non-corporate membership of SLLA, **Project 2:** ‘Make proposal to simplify the application and acceptance procedure of obtaining the SLLA Associate Membership’.

Special Committee on Advocacy: (Convener- P.B. Gallaba) ‘Launch Advocacy Programmes on issues related to the LIS field in the country’.

Workshop on Stock Verification in University Libraries

The Academic Libraries Group of SLLA has organized a workshop on “*Stock Verification in University Libraries*” on 27th January, 2017 at the Seminar Room of the University of Colombo Library. Mr. S. Mayadunne, Former Auditor General and Mrs. T. S. Jayasooriya, Bursar, University of Colombo, served as Main Resource persons of the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to draft a policy for the UGC to adopt on Stock Verification in University Libraries and it was able to draft a policy for Stock Verification in the University Libraries in the evening session of the workshop. There were 38 participants including Librarians and Senior Assistant Librarians from 14 state Universities and 2 private institutions.



Unveiling of Portrait of Late Mr. N. Amarasinghe



The portrait of late Mr. N. Amarasinghe, former Director, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (SLNLSB) (present NLDSB) was unveiled on 16.02.2017 at the National Library. Family members of late Mr. Amarasinghe participated at the event with other invited LIS professionals and the staff of the NLDSB. Mr. Amarasinghe served as the Director/SLNLSB from 1976 to 1988.



He was the founder Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Kelaniya University (1973/74) and the founder Editor of the Ceylon National Bibliography (1962/63). He also served as the Education Officer and in the teaching panel of the SLLA in 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Upali Amarasiri, former Director General of NLDSB delivered the keynote address of the event.

“Guru Puja” for the Teachers of SLLA

Students of the Sri Lanka Library Association who sat for final examination of the Diploma Course felicitated the Lecturers with “*Guru Puja*” on 12 November 2016 at the SLLA Auditorium. They offered a plaque to each lecturer and all lecturers offered words of advice to students to develop their career in the field of library and information science.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Invitation to SLLA Membership

The SLLA Council and COMAISP cordially solicit the support and cooperation of the SLLA membership in the implementation of the SLLA Strategic Plan (2016-22). As all of you are aware, the SLLA Strategic Plan which was prepared by a special committee with the active support of the SLLA membership was unanimously approved at the 2016 SLLA AGM. This is the first such plan in the 57 year history of our association and the SLLA needs the enthusiastic support of all its members, especially those senior members with long experience and expertise in implementation of the plan.

The Professional Groups and Committees of the SLLA are taking the initiative of implementation with the assistance of a number of Special Committees. Their enthusiasm and eagerness towards the project is praiseworthy as 25 projects related to the plan have already been launched by the above groups and committees.

Those who are keen to join the project can do so in the following ways.

- Study the Strategic Plan, identify the Key Action Area you are interested, the relevant strategy or strategies and proposed action/actions from the Plan.
- Make certain that those have not already been selected by other groups/committees.
- Identify a group of members who has similar interests or the necessary expertise and enthusiasm for the identified project and form a Special Committee. The membership can be between 3 to 5 persons.
- Inform Ms. D. Warnasuriya, Convener, COMAISP (email - dilmani1.warnasuriya@gmail.com) of the composition, objectives and proposed Plan of Action of the committee.
- If you are not in a position of identifying the rest of the committee, COMAISP can assist you by proposing suitable members.
- The Convener/COMAISP will inform you the decision of the SLLA Council in the shortest possible time.

The other method of joining the project is helping the Professional Groups, Committees and Special Committees who have already launched projects. For this purpose you may contact the respective Conveners of the groups or committees.

IN FOCUS

Athurugiriya Public Library

Athurugiriya public library established in 1979 under the Athurugiriya 'gamsaba' (Village Council), Kaduwela Pradeshiya Sabha & now Kaduwela Municipal Council. The Athurugiriya Public library Operates 6 days a week. The library is providing, reader services such as lending library, reading room, reference section, childrens' section, study room facility, discussion facility, mobile library service, community Information service, Internet facility, branch library facilities and play role as a community gathering place.



Lending library has nearly 50,000 thousand books on every subject in Sinhala, English and Tamil languages.

Reference Section's door is open to everyone, free of charge. The section provides a facility to read books to study room user.

Childrens' sections open to under 12 years old users. Every month, operates a creative activity (Athkampaya/Creative hour) to the Children members.

The Kaduwela Municipality dwellers who are unable to visit the library or any of the branch libraries are served by the mobile library service. There are six mobile service points in rural areas.

Athurugiriya Public Library launches different programs to improve reading habits of children and adults in the council area throughout the year and also organizes extension services.

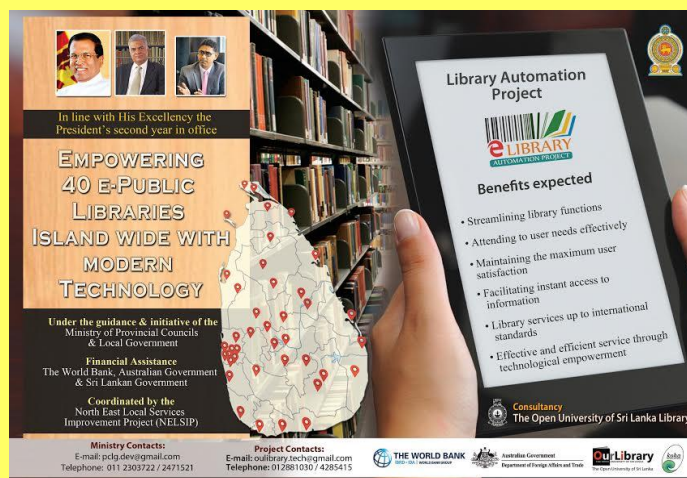
The Athurugiriya Public library was awarded 1st place as the **Best Public Library -2016** in Colombo District, organized by the Local Government Department of Western Province and also received the same award for the years 2014 and 2015. This library received a special commendation award of the **National Productivity Award – 2015**, organized by the National Productivity Secretariat.



A Giant Step towards Library Automation in Sri Lanka: 30 Public Libraries Automation Project by the Open University of Sri Lanka funded by the World Bank, Australian Government and the Government of Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan public library sector has been stagnated with the conventional technologies introduced in 1980s and, starved for the leadership of the modern technology. There were individual systems working on library automation in an isolated manner which does not provide adequate support for the public library sector to move forward independently. The niche has been filled by The Open University of Sri Lanka to empower the 30 public libraries around the country through its automation project.

Thirty (30) public libraries selected for the project have been offered the essential equipment such as a Barcode Scanner, a Barcode Printer, a Desktop Computer and a Server Computer which is customized with the KOHA Library Management Software (LMS) after considering the individual requirements of each and every library. The project also provides the necessary training, support and moral support to public library staff for the successful completion and maintenance of the LMS. Currently the librarians are working in their full strength to achieve the targets set by the University for the Project. Active project period is 4 months and at the end of the period, library is expected to activate their circulation function with bar-coded electronic member cards.



The Project model was developed based on the experiences gained through 10 pilot projects, which includes popular libraries in Sri Lanka such as the Colombo Public Library and the Kandy Public Library. Another important goal of the project is the exposure and the use of modern technology in libraries keeping sustainability in mind. At present staff members of 30 libraries are working hard to achieve the project goal. The project is expected to complete by the 31st of May 2017.



Ceremony of Server distribution for public librarians was held on the 30th March, 2017; The photo represents public librarians, resource persons Dr. W. Seneviratne, Mrs. R. Amarasekara and Mr. H. Balasooriya and the Guest of Honours, the Vice Chancellor and the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

The project is coordinated by the Librarian OUSL, Dr. W. Seneviratne and Deputy Librarian Mrs. Ramani Amarasekara and the team is lead by Mr. Harsha Balasooriya, Senior Assistant Librarian (Systems).

For further details of the project please contact No. 011 - 4285415

Naming the NILIS Auditorium as "Prof. Russell Bowden Auditorium"

The National Institute of Library & Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo organized a special ceremony on 28th January 2017, to name the NILIS auditorium as "**Prof. Russell Bowden Auditorium**", in memory and appreciation of Prof. Russell Bowden's services to NILIS, and to the library sector in Sri Lanka. The Chief Guest at the naming ceremony was His Excellency Mr. James Dauris, British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. The Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Prof. L. Dissanayake and other distinguish invitees attended the event. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Colombo, delivered the keynote address and Mr. P. Ranaweera, Director, NILIS, proposed vote of thanks.



Next Phase of Implementation of the SLLA Strategic Plan

As the next phase of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the SLLA is exploring the following.

a) Get the involvement of the general membership of the SLLA especially senior members and former office bearers of SLLA who have long experience in project work and close links with SLLA

An open invitation is sent to all SLLA members (it appears in this newsletter) inviting them to volunteer for the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan. They can form Special Committees and select projects from the Strategic Plan and inform COMAISP and obtain approval of the Council. They could also inform the COMAISP of their preferred area or strategies of the Strategic Plan and get its assistance to form a Special Committee. Alternatively they can join the existing committees, groups or special committees and help them to implement the projects.

b) Get the involvement of major LIS organizations in the country

The SLLA will solicit the support of NLDSB/National Library, NILIS, Dept. of Library & Information Science of the Kelaniya University, Provincial Library Services Boards, School Library Development Unit, Ministry of Education, National Colleges of Education, where Library & Information Science is taught and other relevant authorities to implement the Strategic Plan. These organizations could take on one or more projects of the Strategic Plan, particularly those relevant to their organization or area of work.

c) Encourage LIS students to select some topics/areas of the Strategic Plan for their research work

As certain areas of the Strategic Plan need in depth research, SLLA is keen to invite LIS students, especially those who follow postgraduate courses in all LIS education institutions to select some areas of the Strategic Plan as their research project.

As indicated earlier all those who join the implementation of the Strategic Plan will receive professional assistance and guidance from the monitoring committee, COMAISP. In addition, expert, technical assistance too can be arranged as and when necessary. They can also use the funds allocated for the implementation of Strategic Plan with prior approval of the COMAISP and the SLLA Council.

Study Tour at Mahidol University Library and Knowledge Center in Thailand

The Health Literature, Library and Information Services (HeLLIS Network Sri Lanka) organized 5 days training course and study tour at Mahidol University Library and knowledge Center in Thailand from 06th to 10th February 2017. Members of HeLLIS network, Mr. S. Premarathne (Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Peradeniya), Mrs. K. Murugathasan (Senior Asst. Librarian, University of Jaffna), Ms C. K. Gamage (Senior Asst. Librarian, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo), Ms. T. Sridharan (Senior Asst. Librarian, PGIM, University of Colombo), Ms. Manjula (Librarian, NHS, Kaluthura), Ms. N. T. K. Narangoda (Planning & programmed Officer, ET & R) were attended for this study tour. This event was sponsored by World Health Organization (WHO) Sri Lanka.



PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Neetha Peiris – **Convener**

Mrs. Sunethra Kariyawasam

Mrs. Dilmani Warnasuriya

Mrs. Mohamed Majeed Mashroofa

Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne

Mr. Subramanian Navaneethakrishnan

If undelivered please return to :

To :

Sri Lanka Library Association
275/75, OPA Centre
Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka