



SLLA Newsletter

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First Council meeting of SLLA 2020/2021



The first council meeting of SLLA (2020/2021) was held on 3rd October 2020 at Mahagedara Family Inn, Anuradhapura. Valuable speeches were delivered by President, Past President of SLLA and invited dignities. Mrs. A.S. Siriwardhana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka highlighted this as a historical event for SLLA history. In addition to the council members Rev. Bodhagama Sumana Thera, Senior Lecturer, Bhikku University, Mrs. R. Samathapala, Librarian, Public Library Anuradhapura, Mrs. T.M.A.P. Thennakone, Librarian, Ancient Technology Museum, Polannaruwa, Mr. Ashoka Rajapaksha, Chairman Library Services Board, North Central Province, Mrs. Wasana Dilrukshi, Director, Library Services Board, North Central Province and Mrs. A.S. Siriwardhana, Librarian, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka participated in the inauguration session of the meeting.



Pahan Pooja and Blessing ceremony

A special Pahan Pooja and blessing ceremony was organized at the Ruwanweliseya premises to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of SLLA after the first council meeting held on 3rd October 2020. Members of the council, SLLA members and office staff of SLLA took part in this event.



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First year remembrance of late Mrs. Srikanthalauxmy Arulanantham Sivanesan (Former President of Sri Lanka Library Association)



Library of the University of Jaffna organized a virtual event of the first year 'Remembrance and Commemorative Speech in memory of late Librarian, Mrs Srikanthaluxmy Arulanantham Sivanesan on the 25th of December, 2020 (Friday) at 3.00 pm. Dr. (Mrs.) Visakaruban Senior Assistant Librarian delivered memorial lecture. She passed away while working as a Librarian of University of Jaffna. She passed away on Christmas day of 2019. She was a dedicated, hard-working and courageous person. Her writings and documents she left behind will continue to speak of her vision. Her character was unique; her passion and dedication to information science was exceptional. She played a multifaceted dynamic roles in serving the communities without looking for any reward.



Colombo Public Library - Online Programs

Colombo Public Library has conducted different types of online programmes during the period of library closure due to COVID - 19 pandemic situation. These programmes were conducted via Zoom and other media platforms. In addition, PDF books with copyright clearances were circulated through Facebook and BlogSpot for leisure reading. The periodical articles of selected magazines also were circulated via telegram app. Story telling session was conducted with Let's Read online platform. This program was sponsored by Asia Foundation.

Library Makerspace programme



Revision of the Rules of the Sri Lanka Library Association

The need to revise the SLLA Rules has been felt for a long time, since the last revision was made in 2014. This need was identified as a project within the COMAISP (expand) of SLLA. Therefore, a committee was formed by the COMAISP for revising rules, aligning with the Sri Lanka Library Association (Incorporation) (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2004 and Sri Lanka Library Association (Incorporation) Law No.20 of 1974. The proposals and recommendations of the committee to revise or introduce include the following.

A clear description of responsibilities of the Council and the ExCo are to be included. Rules are proposed to be renamed as By-Laws. Incorporating the relevant resolutions adopted at the AGM and relevant decisions made at past SLLA Councils (if any) into the Rules is necessary. Proper recording of such decisions has been reiterated.

New membership categories such as students, institutions etc. should be introduced. There should be a written policy for non-corporate membership. Improving the process of selecting group Conveners and the membership is another proposal made.

The Strategic Plan is expected to be updated and prepared for another period. The President and President- Elect should formulate their plans of action based on the Strategic Plan with clear time frames.

Renaming Diploma Course in Library and Information Science

The three tier professional course offered by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) has a long history and it celebrates the 60th anniversary in 2021. This brief note is to describe the state of the course currently being offered. Although the course was started in 1961, the title of the ‘Diploma’ course was changed several times due to the circumstantial requirements in the Library and Information field and to keep up with the educational reforms in the country (see Table 1). The last change of the course title took effect in 2020. Now the course is offered in two stages as

Table 1: The change of names of tiers in the three-tier Diploma offered by the SLLA

Year	Naming of three tiers
1961	a) First Examination of the Ceylon Library Association (sometimes named as the Librarianship - First Examination) b) Intermediate Examination of the Ceylon Library Association c) Final Examination of the Ceylon Library Association
1998	Change of names with the syllabus revision... a) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level I b) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level II-I c) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level II-II
2008	Renamed Levels II-I and II-II as Levels II and III. a) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level I b) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level II c) Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level III
2020	Renamed the three tiers as two courses. a) Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS) b) Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science (HDIPLIS) – (I) c) Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science (HDIPLIS) – (II)

indicated in the following table (see Table 2). Accordingly, the **Diploma in Library and Information Science (DIPLIS)** was split into the **Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS)**, and the **Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science (HDIPLIS)** with effect from 15th February 2020. It is compatible with the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF), 2015 edition. Although the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) has not officially assigned the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) levels we have used here the parallel levels as described in SLQF. Also, we would like to mention that the SLLA, along with other LIS education institutions, is closely working with the TVEC to standardize the LIS qualifications on par with the national standards

Table 2: Details of the current Diploma and Higher Diploma Course offered by the SLLA

Previous Name of the course	Present Name & Acronym use	Qualification Earned	SLQF Level	Parallel NVQ Level*	Deliverables & Credits offered
Level I (DIPLIS)	Diploma (DLIS)	Diploma in Library and Information Science	SLQF 03	NVQ 05	30 Credits Exit Level (Transcript + Diploma Certificate)
Level II	Higher Diploma in LIS – Part I HDIPLIS (I)	-	-	-	(Only the Transcript)
Level III	Higher Diploma in LIS – Part II HDIPLIS (II)	Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science	SLQF 04	NVQ 06	30 Credits** Exit Level (Transcript + Higher Diploma Certificate)

Table 2 clearly indicates the title changes of the course in the first two columns. The duration of the Diploma/Higher Diploma (full three tier program) is 3 years if completed at a stretch. A student must complete the DLIS course within a maximum period of 3 years. The HDIPLIS should be completed within a maximum of 5 years. The last column of the table indicates the two exit levels of the full course: DLIS and HDIPLIS. The students who have successfully completed each course will get a Transcript plus a Certificate. HDIPLIS (I) and HDIPLIS (II) are contributing to the Higher Diploma. Thus HDIPLIS (I) is not an exit point. Therefore, a student enrolled for the HDIPLIS can only have an academic transcript at the completion of examination of the HDIPLIS (I). We hope that due to these changes, students will have a clear understanding on the level of the course alongside other courses offered by other institutions. Also, they can clearly see the path for upward mobility, for progressing towards obtaining degree and postgraduate qualifications. To end this note, we should also remind that students who completes the Higher Diploma may now join the Honors Degree program in Library and Information Science offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka, while exempting the first two years of study. Therefore, they get the honors degree in two years. In addition, the SLLA Diplomates, along with the professional membership (Corporate Membership) can further join the Postgraduate courses offered by the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo



Dr. (Ms) C.N.K. Alahakoon
 Education Officer,
 Senior Assistant Librarian,
 University of Peradeniya.

The Library Network of the University of Colombo conducted the “Library Research Symposium- 2020” for the third consecutive year on 23rd December 2020, in online mode under the theme of “Rethinking of Library Services in the Knowledge Era”. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honor was Senior Professor Premakumara De Silva, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean, IGNC; Director (Lib. & Inf.) Head – Kala Nidhi Division at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, India delivered the keynote address on “Library as a learning space: Rethinking Roles, Rethinking spaces”. Dr. (Mrs.) Pradeepa Wijetunge, the Librarian, University of Colombo, was the chair of the symposium. There were two technical sessions for the LRS 2020 chaired by Dr. N. D. Wijayasundara, Librarian, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. C. C. Jayasundara, Librarian, University of Kelaniya, Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian, University of Peradeniya, and Mr. W. J. Jeyaraj, Librarian, Eastern University of Sri Lanka. During the sessions several research papers were presented by the academic staff of the library, and there were more than 80 participants representing universities, public, and private sectors.



SLLA Publication Committee 2020/2021

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News Items for the next Newsletter (Jan. – Mar. 2021)

Share your experiences, best practices and activities held in your libraries to be published in the forthcoming SLLA Newsletter. Its main aim is to exchange and disseminate news and views among membership. Send your news items in MS WORD format to publication officer via email sritharan@lib.cmb.ac.lk or sllapublicationofficerail.com

Announcement

Call for Articles - Sri Lanka Library Review (SLLR) Vol. 35. Iss. 2

Publication committee of SLLA wishes to receive articles from members and scholars to be published in SLLR, Vol. 35 issue 2. SLLR is now being published as a double blind peer reviewed open access journal with two issues per year. The next issue will be published in June 2021. Articles will be accepted till 15th March, 2021. You may submit articles written in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Please send your manuscripts in MS WORD file to publication officer via email - sritharan@lib.cmb.ac.lk or sllapublicationofficer@gmail.com. Guidelines and other details are available at the SLLA website - www.slla.org.lk

SLLA COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020/2021

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Nominated Council Members:

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2. Mr. Lal Pannila

Nominated Ex-Co members:

1. Mrs. Sunethra Perera
2. Ms. Rukmali Sepalika

If undelivered please return to:

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To: