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Visit of Secretary General of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to Sri Lanka



The IFLA Secretary General Ms. Jennefer Nicholson visited Sri Lanka in December 2015, under the auspices of the SLLA and the National Library and Documentation Services Board. Ms. Nicholson delivered a lecture on Transforming Library Services in the digital information environment. The presentation provided awareness on IFLA's key initiatives, activities, IFLA's Strategic Plans and Directions, Ethics Statement and the IFLA Trend Report.

It was a great opportunity for the SLLA members and LIS professionals to gain an insight into the developments in the LIS field and also its future directions, and of IFLA in general.

It was an opportune time for the SLLA as it has embarked on the Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) programme, a key activity of IFLA.

Ms. Jennefer Nicholson discussed many issues pertaining to the SLLA BSLA with the SLLA BSLA Committee and it was also a landmark event for the SLLA when the MoU between IFLA and SLLA was signed by Ms. Nicholson and the President of the SLLA Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe pledging IFLA's support for the BSLA project in Sri Lanka.



IFLA/BSLA - SLLA Training the Trainers Workshop on Professional Conduct and Ethics

A workshop was organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) sponsored by Building Strong Library Association (BSLA) Programme of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), to train core trainers to propagate professional code of ethics and conduct training programmes among library professionals in Sri Lanka.

The workshop was conducted from 23rd to 25th March 2016 and was held at Renuka City Hotel, Colombo. The Resource person of the workshop was Prof. Gillian Hallam, Adjunct Professor of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with Dr. Premila Gamage, Institute of Policy Studies, (BSLA Official) Sri Lanka, acting as the facilitator.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15 & 2015/16

S.C. Blok Memorial Scholarships

Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level I – 2015/2016

Sinhala Medium - Ms. L.B.T. Bhagya De Silva
 Tamil Medium - Ms. K Kathirkamanathan
 English Medium - Ms. Dharshini Vijayanathan

Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level II – 2014/2015

Sinhala Medium - Ms. P.M.C.Erandi Pathiraja
 Tamil Medium - Ms. S.Kajenthini
 English Medium - Mr. W.A.S.Attanayake

Gold Medal for Best Achievement at

Diploma in Library and Information Science – Level III – 2014/2015 - (Final Examination)



Ms. W.G. Suraji Surangika

A. L. B. Pethiyagoda Memorial Award – Level I – 2015/2016 (Kandy Centre)

Ms. A.M.I.U.K. Abeysondera

Course on Library Automation (COLA)–2015/16 Clodagh Nethsinghe Memorial Award

Ms. L.D. Ruwanthi Nilmini

SLLA Strategic Plan 2016-2022

SLLA Strategic Plan 2016-2022 will be submitted to the SLLA AGM on 24th June 2016 for discussion and approval. The draft plan which was sent to the membership in March 2016, has been further improved and enhanced. The main addition is the strengthening of the implementation part which includes identifying the mechanism of implementation, funding and the responsibility of implementation of the plan. The responsibility of implementation has been delegated to the SLLA Council, professional groups, special committees and the membership after identifying the specific role for each group. There are a number of innovative features in the plan including a two tier implementation schedule, identifying the challenges of each LIS sector in the country, assigning and delegating specific roles in implementation of the plan and the overall cooperative spirit embedded into the plan.

Inauguration ceremony of DIPLIS Level- 1 – 2016/2017

Inauguration of the Diploma in Library and Information Science (DIPLIS) Level - I Sinhala medium course was held at the National Library on 07th May 2016. Concurrently, the Tamil medium batch of the Jaffna centre was inaugurated at the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna.

Students of the Kandy, Colombo and Galle centers and the Distance Education Programme participated in the Colombo event. The President - SLLA, Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe, Education Officer, Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Assistant Education Officer, Mr. Sugath Gunatillake, Galle Centre Coordinator Ms. Palika Kariyawasam, representatives of the lecturer panel - Dr. K.D.G.Wimalarathne, Mr. J. Ratnayake, Mr. S.U. Amarasinghe, and Ms. K. N. Samanthi addressed the gathering.

There are around 40 students registered for the current Distance Course, while nearly 150 students enrolled for the regular courses.



20 students registered for this course in the Jaffna center and 17 students attended the inauguration. Jaffna Center Coordinator Dr. (Mrs.) K. Chandrasekar and representatives of the lecturer panel- Mrs. R P Pararajasingam, Mr. S. Ketheeswaren, Mr. M. Sinnarajah and Mr. K.M. Nisath addressed the gathering.

The inauguration of the Batticaloa Center was held on 04th June, 2016 at Vincent Girls' High School, Batticaloa. Mr.W.J.Jeyaraj, Course Coordinator welcomed all and explained the Programme. Mrs. T. Arulnandhy and Mrs. G. Navirathan also expressed the views on the subjects.

12th National Conference on Library and Information Studies (NACLIS) 2016

The SLLA National Conference is an annual event aimed at promoting professionalism and sharing academic experiences among librarians and information scientists in Sri Lanka. This year SLLA held its 12th Annual Conference at Sri Lanka Foundation, 100, Sri Lanka Padanam Mawatha, Independence Square, Colombo 07 on 23rd June.

The main theme of NACLIS was: "Marching towards excellence: contributions of LIS professionals in building a better society". In conjunction with this event, a promotion campaign to motivate developers and users of software and other IT accessories related to library automation was also organized.

The 56th Annual General Meeting

The 56th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) will be held on 24th June 2016 at the auditorium of the Sri Lanka Foundation (SLF)

Dr. H. S. Wanasinghe Library (SLIDA Library)

Introduction: The Academy of Administrative Studies was established in 1966 to provide necessary training facilities for public servants. In 1979 the academy was renamed as the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA), a body corporate under The Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs, was established in May 1982, by Act. No. 9 of 1982. It was the national institute vested with the responsibility for competency and professional development of personnel at all levels in the public sector. In its core value of public interest, SLIDA's key functional areas are public management training, management consultancy, research and dissemination of public administration and management information to local and foreign clientele. The policy body of SLIDA is the Governing Council.

In accordance with an order made under section 25A of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, as amended by Act. No. 07 of 1985, the University Grants Commission (UGC) in the year 2003, accredited SLIDA with a Masters level degree awarding status.

In 1966 the library was established under Asst. Librarian, at Glen Abor place, Colombo 04. A few library books were transferred to the organized and methods division and D. S. T. libraries in the general Treasury. In 1968 a librarian was appointed. Then on 16th May 1968, the library was shifted to Longden Place. After renovation, the SLIDA library was renamed Dr. H.S.Wanasinghe library on 06th August 2015 in honour of the Founder Director of SLIDA.

Mission : 'To support the mission of the institute by providing state-of-art services of a knowledge organization needed for effective teaching; and for study and research in field of management studies and administration.'

Objectives :

To provide and maintain a collection of books and journals;

To develop the participation of faculty and offer a collection of resources that supports the curriculum of public administration;

To provide access to the collection through cataloguing, classification and other retrieval methods;
To cooperate with other libraries and related organizations.

Membership:- Membership is divided into five categories, namely: SLIDA Faculty Members, SLIDA permanent staff, participants of long term courses (eg:-MPM, Induction training), researchers, government officers.



Collection: - The SLIDA Library has a collection of about 30,000 items - of all materials. Collection is divided to five sections as lending section, reference section, newspaper and periodical section and special collection. Special collection includes a Sri Lankan collection, Dr. H. S. Wanasinghe collection, Monash University collection, Rare book collection, MPM Theses, Government publications, bound volumes of periodicals. Additionally is a collection of newspaper articles covering 28 subject areas related to public administration

Subject Coverage:- Public policy, good governance, personality development, economic development & planning, environment management, performance improvement, productivity, project management, strategic management, human resources management, globalisation, privatisation, e-Governance and e-Business.

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Workshop on Greenstone Library Software

Special Libraries Group in collaboration with National Institute of Library and Information Sciences successfully held a 2-day workshop on Greenstone Digital Library Software on 28th and 29th April at NILIS. The newest version 3.07 was used for the workshop. 17 participants, majority from special libraries, participated at the workshop. Resource persons were Mr. B G N Kumarasinghe, Dr. Ruwan Gamage and Mr. Harsha Balasooriya. Mrs. Talagala also contributed in helping participants in their practical sessions. Participants were given



hands-on practical knowledge on how to create a digital library collection and optimise the display of contents towards better display to users. Dr. Ruwan Gamage delivered the introductory lecture on digital libraries. Mr. Kumarasinghe then conducted the Workshop beginning from the installation of Software. Mr. Balasooriya concluded the workshop with a comparison of Greenstone and Dspace digital library software.

President of the SLLA, Ms Shivanthi Weerasinghe, welcomed the participants on the first day while Dr. Pradeepa Wijetunga, President-Elect, presented the certificates on the second day at the valedictory session.

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Services and Facilities: - The Library is ready to give more services and facilities to readers to make their academic work easy. Services include lending, reference, information service, current awareness service, photocopying, assistance in the use of library catalogue, user education and also many facilities as E-Printing Service, Wi-Fi service, assistance in the use of library services and collection, copies of past examination papers, online renewal of loans through library catalogue, online reservation of items for loan.

Library Staff: - Library staff consists of the Librarian, Assistant Librarian, and Library Assistant.

Special Activities: Organisation of seminars and special lectures for public servants.

Opening Hours: - SLIDA Library is open for six days except Sunday and government holidays, from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Library Contacts: B.A. Priyani Balasooriya, Librarian, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, No. 28/10, Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

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SLIDA Website www.slida.lk

Library Online Information Search Service SLIDA OPAC <http://opac.slida.lk>

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The number of participants selected for the workshop was 20 and they consisted of Library and Information (LIS) professionals representing geographical regions and different library sectors in the country. The criteria for selection was decided by the BSLA/SLLA Committee.



The workshop was the first phase of the series of island wide workshops planned for the project to provide awareness on the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics of the SLLA and to establish and promote professional ethics among Library and Information (LIS) professionals in Sri Lanka and to establish a strong ethical culture within the sector.

The SLLA President, Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe delivered the welcome address and said that she appreciated and thanked senior librarians who were actively involved in formulating the Code of Ethics of the SLLA in in the 1990s, especially Prof. Jayasiri Lankage, Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe and Mr. Harrison Perera and their teams. She also thanked all those who contributed and assisted her in revising the CoE as Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics (PCE), especially late Prof. Russell Bowden who was part of the Ethics team.

Professional Conduct and Ethics (PCE) is a set of standards of behavior expected of the members belonging to a particular profession. They encompass the personal organizational and corporate standards of behaviour, values, norms and guiding principles expected of professionals belonging to a specific profession. Codes of professional ethics are often established by professional organizations to help guide members in performing their job functions according to sound and consistent ethical behaviour.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. IFLA Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) is a comprehensive programme offering a strategic and coordinated approach to capacity building and sustainability of library associations.



Workshop objectives of the programme were;

- to create a strong awareness on the significance of inculcating professional conduct and ethics among the library and information professionals.
- to provide awareness of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics (Code) to members of the Sri Lanka Library Association.
- to train the trainers on strategies/methodologies in conducting workshops at district level to promote and propagate ethical culture around the country.

It was felt that this programme will facilitate the strengthening of the Sri Lanka library profession. and create a strong awareness on PCE among the different sectors of librarianship and regions in the country through trainees selected to represent the workshop. Also it emerged at the workshop that PCE is important in serving users, communities and society, taking many issues such as cultural values, and traditions etc. The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, 2015 (Rev) of SLLA is binding to the SLLA members and it is expected to encourage its use by other library professionals. It is available at the following link:

[http://www.slla.org.lk/images/stories/docs/activities/downloads/CODE% 20PCE%20final.pdf](http://www.slla.org.lk/images/stories/docs/activities/downloads/CODE%20PCE%20final.pdf) . The first COE was published in 1998 and was revised with the support of the SLLA Ethics Committee of the SLLA.

Revision of NLDSB circular on book losses in libraries

The NLDSB Circular (NLDSB Advisory Circular No. 2004/LS/1) on book Losses in Libraries dated 26th January 2004 is regarded as one of the fundamental documents on the LIS field in Sri Lanka, which made a tremendous impact on the welfare of the Sri Lankan library community. In 2006, the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs issued the same circular (Combined Services Circular No. 01/2006) for the benefit of the library staff in the combined services.

Book losses in libraries had been a nightmare for librarians till then as the library materials were considered capital items and librarians had to bear the sole responsibility of safeguarding the collections. This unfair practice made the lives of librarians very difficult and forced at least some of them to keep the collections under lock and key, contravening the basic principles of the LIS field. A considerable number of librarians had to pay large sums of monies as fines or had to suffer untold hardships after retirement to get their pension or similar benefits released. The NLDSB Circular revolutionized the entire spectrum of book losses in libraries by establishing more liberal principles on the subject and safeguarding the rights of librarians.

The Circular established a number of new principles and guidelines on the subject in Sri Lanka.

- I. The books and other library materials are current assets and not capital assets. Through this the unwarranted powers exercised by the auditors over the library community has been removed. In the past books and other library materials were considered as capital assets which made it very difficult for librarians to open the collection for thousands of library users, provide multiple services and keep the collection intact at the end of the year.
- II. The second principle is that the responsibility of the security of library materials does not solely rest on the shoulders of the librarian. The management of the parent organization is equally responsible for the security of library materials. It is the responsibility of the parent organization to provide a secure, spacious and quality building for the library, adequate staff, necessary security arrangements and other facilities to run the library service. If these facilities are not provided, the management is also responsible for the loss of library materials the circular opined. This new concept not only rescued librarians from a difficult situation but also forced the management to provide the necessary facilities for the libraries.
- III. The third concept introduced by the circular is spelling out a procedure to deal with cases of book losses in libraries. The Library Committee of the organization or special sub-committee appointed by the Library Committee can inquire and make recommendations on the losses. Through the process the authority has the power to write off 25% to 100% of the items lost.
- IV. The fourth principle established through the circular is the responsibility entrusted to the entire library staff, not only the chief librarian, for the security of library materials. They have to conduct annual stock verifications, report the missing items to the Library Committee periodically, establish the library committee and get its assistance in library operation, launch user education programmes, conduct stock verifications every time a librarian is transferred or assumes duties at a new place or prior to retirement.

The committee formed by the NLDSB in 2015 to revise the circular consists of representatives from the NLDSB, SLLA, Ministries of Public Administration, Local Government and Education, trade unions of librarians and a few senior library professionals. The committee only made a few minor revisions as they found the original circular was well prepared taking all the aspects of the problem into consideration. One major problem was that some Provincial Councils and organizations so far did not implement the circular and the committee urged the NLDSB to educate those Provincial Councils and organizations and urge them to implement it.

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