

NATNET *Lanka*

National Library & Documentation Services Board - Sri Lanka

Vol. 22, No. 2

ISSN 1391-2658

July - December 2018

National Reading Month Award Ceremony 2018



The month of October has been declared as the National Reading Month with the objective of promoting reading and thereby contributing to the national development. National Reading Month programme is the main programme conducted by the National Library and Documentation Services Board to encourage the reader community for reading. In conjunction with the National Reading Month, reading promotion programmes are conducted throughout the country. The National Reading Month – 2018 award ceremony was held in *Battaramulla Ape Gama Mahawalawwa Hall* on 13th December 2018.

The Kokuvil Public Library of Nallur Pradeshiya Sabha of Jaffna district was awarded as the library which implemented the best reading promotion programme.

The Siriwardana Public Library of Minuwangoda Urban Council of Gampaha district won the second place. The Hettipola Central Library of Wilgamuva Pradeshiya Sabha of Matale district won the third place. 78 libraries (public, school and other) were presented awards. 22 libraries were presented awards as best conservation centres. In this ceremony Dr. Sunil Wijesiriwardena conducted a memorial lecture. A large number of participants participated the event.

Natlib Sympo - 2018

National Library Research Symposium

The National Library Research Symposium was held on 23rd October 2018 under the patronage of Mr. Sunil Hettiarachchi, Secretary, Ministry of Education. The keynote speech was made by Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo. Mr. Deepal Chandraratna, Chairman, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General and senior staff of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, researchers and paper presenters participated the inauguration ceremony.

As the main national institute in the library and information science field in Sri Lanka conducting and encouraging research in library and information field is a main role of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. This research symposium provides the opportunity to present research papers and share the knowledge among the professionals in library and information field and other related fields. 20 research papers were presented by 24 researchers on various topics. About 91 participants were present from various institutes and the research community.



National Reading Month 2018 Free Membership of the National Library

The month of October has been declared as the National Reading Month by the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). In relation to NLDSB has decided to offer one-year free membership of the National Library to the Sri Lankan readers during the National Reading Month in October 2018. Many university academics, researchers, journalists, university students and many more make use of this opportunity.



Grading of Libraries

National Library and Documentation Services Board grades libraries in the country with the objective of providing a quality library service for the people. Seminars are organized covering the various provinces of the Island with the objective of encouraging the libraries which have not been graded so far. Under this programme a seminar was held on 20th September 2018 to make aware the library professionals of North Western province.

Colombo International Book Fair - 2018



The Colombo International Bookfair organized by Sri Lanka Book Publishers' Association was held in BMICH from 21st to 30th September 2018. The main theme of the exhibition was *Readers Make Leaders and Leaders Make Readers*. Leading local and foreign book publishers participated the exhibition. The exhibition consisted of 400 local exhibition stalls and 50 foreign exhibition stalls.

Project for Recommending Books for Libraries

National Library and Documentation Services Board implements a project for recommending books for libraries with the objective of making available standard books for readers and encouraging the publishing of quality books. Under this project 129 Sinhala books, 09 Tamil books and 09 English books have been recommended for libraries.

Donation of Library Furniture and Equipments



Under the donation of furniture and equipments for the libraries, 50 chairs were donated to Karuwalagaswewa Pradeshiya Sabha public library and another 50 chairs were donated to the Walikedda Prison Library.

National Library Lecture Series No. 266



The 266th lecture of the National Library Lecture Series was conducted on the topic *Reading and Library usage for an advanced democratic society* was conducted by Dr. Suren Ragawan on 6th July 2018 at the National Library auditorium. About 56 scholars participated the lecture.

Seminar on E-Government, Cyber Security and Social Media



Seminar on E-Government, Cyber Security and Social Media for information professionals and management heads in government organizations of Sri Lanka was held on 16th October 2018 at NLDSB main auditorium. Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Chairman, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka, Mr. Wasantha Deshapriya, former Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure, Mr. Nalaka Gunawardene, Journalist and Science writer, Dr. Kanishka Karunasena, Research and Policy Development Specialist, Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team, Co-ordination Centre (Sri Lanka CERT) served as resource persons of the seminar. 95 heads of institutions representing various government institutions and library professionals and officers of the NLDSB participated the workshop.



NILIS Research Symposium 2018

The Annual Research Symposium of the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo was held on 1st December 2018 at the NILIS Auditorium. The theme of the symposium was *Library and Information Science Education in the Digital Era*. Mr. W Sunil, Director General, National Library and NLDSB was the Chief Guest and Mr. Prasanna Ranaweera Director NILIS delivered the Keynote Speech. Dr. Ruwan Gamage chaired the technical sessions. Fifteen research papers on Library and Information Management related subjects were presented.



Survey on Cultural Centre Libraries

National Library and Documentation Services Board conducts various research studies with the objective of promoting research in library and information field as the main national body in the library field in Sri Lanka. Under this programme a survey was conducted on the libraries of Cultural Centres in Sri Lanka. This study is very useful for those who study on Cultural Centres, researchers and the library professionals. Action have been taken to compile a database consisting of information on 156 libraries in district level.

The String Puppet Art of Sri Lanka was nominated as a World Heritage



The string puppet art of Sri Lanka was entered to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Register of UNESCO in the 13th UNESCO inter - governmental committee meeting held in Murusi from 26th November to 01st December 2018 on the recommendation of the inter-governmental cultural Heritage. Pro. P. B. Nandadeva, University of Kelaniya and Mr. Ashoka Siriwardhana, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs participated the meeting.

Workshop on Dewey Decimal Classification

National Library and Documentation Services Board conducts workshops in Provincial level with the objective of improving the knowledge of librarians on the classification of library resources. Under this programme, a training workshop was conducted in the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Library Services Board auditorium on 24th July 2018. About 22 librarians representing public libraries in Rathnapura district participated the workshop.

Another programme was conducted for public librarians of Kaluthara district at the National Library and Documentation Services Board auditorium on 27th September 2018. 15 librarians of the public libraries of Kalutara district participated the workshop.

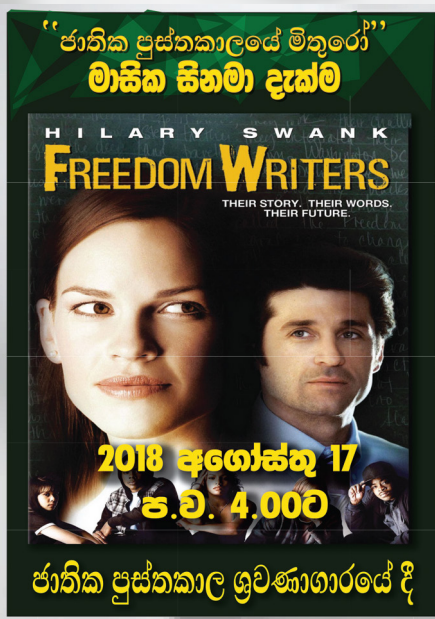
Donation of Books to Prison Libraries

Sipirigeyata Pothak (a book for the prison) programme of the National Library Friends Organization of the National Library and Documentation Services Board and *Manusath Derana* Launched a programme to collect books in the Colombo International Book Fair held from 21st to 30th September 2018. The books collected were donated to Prison Commissioner in the award ceremony of the National Reading Month held in *Battaramulla Ape Gama Mahawalawwa Hall* on 13th December 2018.



Monthly Film Show

With the objective of improving the knowledge and entertainment of the reader community, National Library and Documentation Services Board organized a monthly film show. Following world famous films have been screened so far :



Freedom writers - 17th August 2018



Frantz - 13th September 2018

Workshop on Research Methodology



A two day workshop on Research Methodology organized by Research Division of NLDSB was held on 2nd & 3rd August 2018 at NLDSB main auditorium. The workshop focused to professionals, academics and researchers in the field of library and information science & social sciences to gain experience and generate a new knowledge in the field. Prof. K. A. P. Siddhisena, Emeritus Professor of the Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Dr. Wathmanel Senevirathne, Librarian, Open University & Dr. Sunethra J. Perera, Senior Lecturer of Department of Demography in University of Colombo served as the resource persons of the Workshop. The officers, professionals & researchers in different fields participated the workshop. 58 participants which consisted of 31 participants representing various institutes and 27 National Library officers participated the workshop.

Awareness programme on Information Resources and Services of the National Library

National Library conducts awareness programmes in islandwide to improve the awareness on National Library resources and services among the Sri Lankan community. Chairmen, Secretaries and executive officers of local government institutions of Kaluthara district, Officers of the Police Collage Kaluthara, Community Development officers, librarians of Local Government Institutions and teacher librarians numbering 112 participated the programme. The programme was held on 13th July 2018 at Kaluthara Urban Council auditorium.

Special programmes of National Reading Month

A training programme on maintaining *Kekulu childrens' society libraries* was conducted for 75 Samurdi Development Officers Islandwide in Nillamba Training centre in Peradeniya. The first stage of the programme was conducted on 14th August 2018 and the second stage was conducted from 11th-13th September 2018.

International Conference on Development of Digital Publishing and Digital Libraries (CDPDL – 2018)

The International conference on Integrated Development of Digital Publishing and Digital Libraries (CDPDL-2018) was held from 15th to 20th August 2018 in Shanxi province, Taiyuan in China. Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services Board participated the conference.



Cultural Partnership Initiative (CPI) Education and Training programmes for Overseas Librarians

An education and training programme organized by the National Library of Korea was held from 01st June to 1st October 2018 at the National Library of Korea. The objective of this programme is to share culture and new technology between the Korean government and the regional countries. Four library professionals are given the training opportunity through this programme at a time. At the moment 47 library professionals of 22 countries have been given training opportunities. Mr. M. S. M. Shiham participated this programme representing the National Library and Documentation Services Board.



Senior Officials of the Pakistan Library Association visit the National Library of Sri Lanka

President of the Pakistan Library Association (PLA) Dr. Saeed Ullah Jan, Zeelshan Ullah, Assistant Secretary General and Zakria, General Secretary of the Pakistan Library Association visited the National Library of Sri Lanka on 7th of August 2018. Chairman, Director General and other senior staff of the National Library were also present on the occasion.



Workshop on Preservation of Documentary Heritage for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



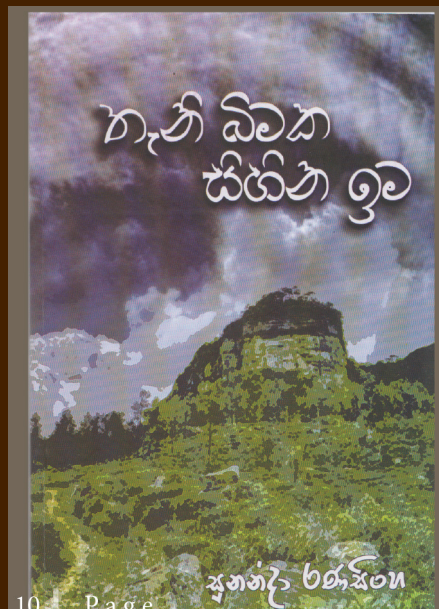
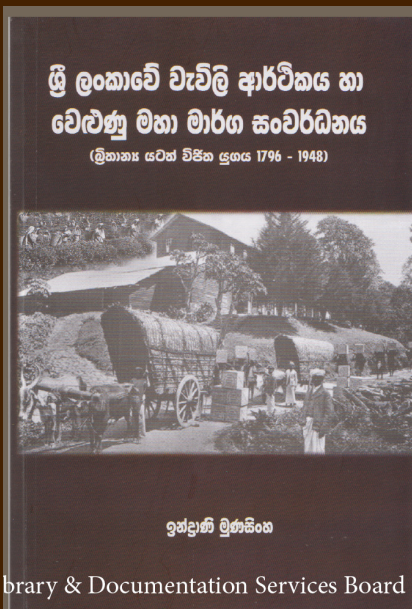
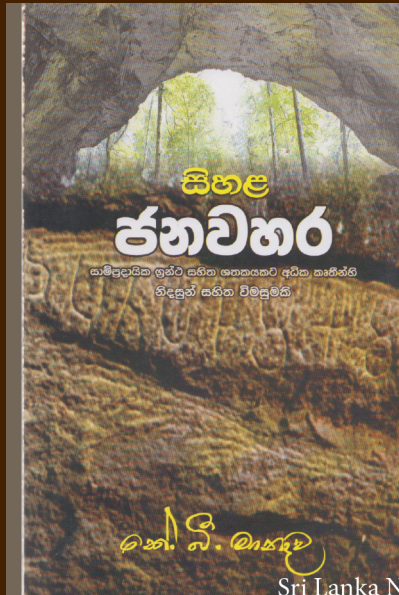
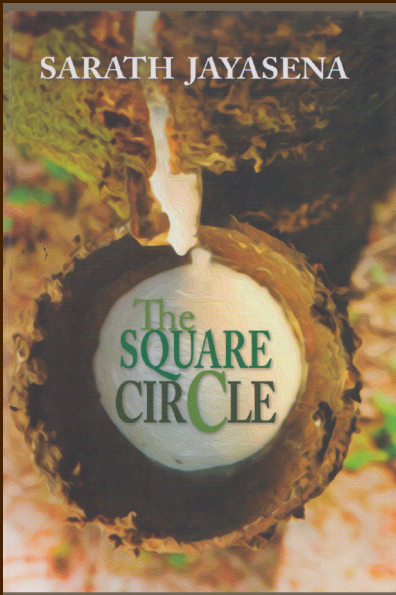
The workshop on Regional capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management organized by UNESCO and Royal government Bhutan was conducted in Thimpu from 29th-30th November, 2018. Mr. Udaya Cabral, Assistant Director / Head, Conservation and Preservation Division of NLDSB participated the workshop.

State Literary Award Festival – 2018



The book *Vesak Kuduwa* written by Chandrasena Kodithuwakku and published under the Publication Assistance Project of the National Library and Documentation Services Board received the State Literary Award for Children’s Literature.

In addition, 6 books were recommended for state literary awards.



Book Donations to Libraries

National Library and documentation Services Board donates books to libraries with the objective of developing collections in libraries and thereby promoting the reading habit of the people. Accordingly books have been donated to public, school, Damma school, department and other libraries in Sri Lanka

Library	Number of Libraries	Number of books	Value Rs.
Public library	09	491	105,309.75
School library	39	2373	47,1073.75
Dhamma School library	09	433	107,668.50
Department library	10	831	165,124.75
Defence library	03	210	45,093.50
Other	21	1151	235,227.00

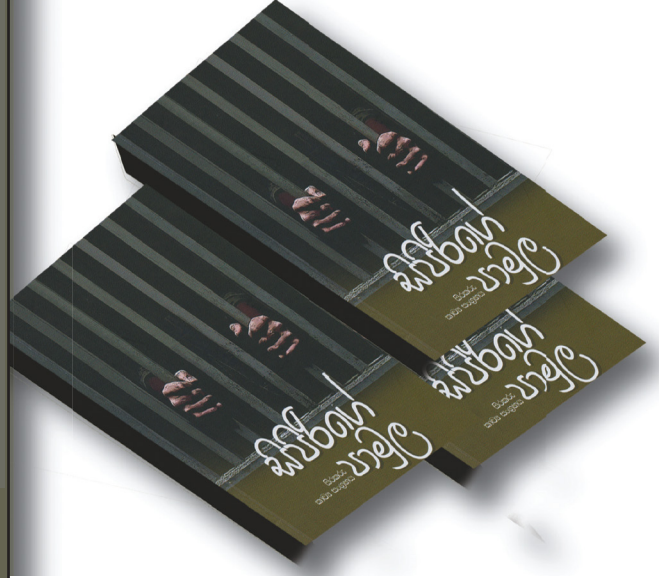
Organizing Book Exhibitions and Educational Exhibitions

Book exhibitions are conducted covering various parts of the country with the objective of making available quality books on concessionary rates. Under this programme, book exhibitions and educational exhibitions are conducted in national and regional level. Exhibitions have been conducted in following places in 2018.

Kandy City Centre	25 th -29 th June, 2018
Colombo Public Library	24 th -31 st July, 2018
Colombo International Book fair, BMICH	21 st -30 th September, 2018
Kuliyapitiya Central college	3 rd -7 th October 2018
University of Kelaniya	4 th -5 th November, 2018
University of Colombo	26 th -27 th November, 2018

The Provincial State Literary Award for a Library Science Book

Discussion on Poet Book "Sipirige Pamula"



Uva Province State Literary Festival 2018 (Sinhala and Tamil) was held on 12th November 2018 at the auditorium of the Uva Provincial Library Services Board. The book titled පළාත් මධ්‍ය පුස්තකාල සංවර්ධනය (Development of Provincial Central Libraries) received an award for an excellent book under miscellaneous subjects. The book written by Mr. Wijaya Premadarshana, Assistant Director, NLDSB and published by the National Library and Documentation Services Board. This is the first time that a book on library and information science received a State Award in provincial level.

A discussion on the poet book සිපිරිගේ පාමුල compiled by prisoners of Welikada Prison under the direction of the National Library Friends Organization was held in the National Library auditorium on 30th August 2018. In this discussion, Dr. Praneeth Abeysundara, Mr. Chulananda Samaranayake and Mrs. Kumari Kumaramuge expressed their ideas.

Mr. Ariya B. Rakava, Governor of the Uva province, Mr. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, Chief Minister of the Uva province of the inauguration ceremony. The function was organized by the Ministry of Education Uva Provincial Council.



Training Workshops

National Library and Documentation Services Board conducts training programmes covering all the provinces in the country. Through these programmes a large number of staff members of public and school libraries have been trained.

Date	Place	Participant	Number of Participants
11 th -13 th June 2018	Chilaw National School	School library Attendants of Chilaw, Kuliypitiya and Giriulla educational zones of North Western Province	31
22 nd – 23 th June 2018	Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government - Ampara	Public library staff of Ampara and Trincomalee	44
18 th - 19 th July 2018	Badulla Senarath Paranawithana Library auditorium	Public Librarians of Budulla District	63
14 th – 17 th August 2018	National Library and Documentation Services Board	Library staff of Colombo Musaeus College	05
18 th - 20 th September 2018	Mahawa Vijayaba National School	School library Attendants of Mahawa and Nikaveratiya educational zones	32
13 th - 14 th September 2018	Atulugama Education Development Training Centre - Dehiovita	Kegalle and Rathnapura public librarians of Sabaragamuwa province	71
8 th November 2018	Weeraketiya Pradeshiya Sabha auditorium	Public Librarians of Hambanthota district	62
12 th - 14 th November 2018	Kurunegala Maliyadeva Boys' school	Kurunegala and Ibbagamuwa educational zones	41

Annual Get-together - 2018



The annual get-together organized by the welfare society of the National Library and Documentation Services Board to mark the end of the year and the new year was held on 15th December 2018 at the River View Hotel, Panadura. This was a good opportunity for the staff not only to get an entertainment but also to improve goodwill and unity among the staff members and their family members. A large number of officers of the NLDSB and family members participated the occasion.

Seminar on Introduction of National Standard for Children's Books

A one day seminar was organised at the NLDSB auditorium on 20th December 2018 with the objective of making aware the publishers and writers on the improvement of compilation of children's literature which does not receive much attention from writers and critics.

In conjunction with this seminar a book titled මෙම ග්‍රන්ථ සැකැස්මේ ක්‍රමවේදය (methods of compiling children's books) was also launched. This book contains information and guidelines for compilation of children's books. More than 150 writers and critics who are engaged in compilation of children's books participated the event.



International Symposium - Libsym 2018

The Library Network of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka organised an International Symposium on *Emerging Trends in Education and Library and Information Science* on 9th and 10th August 2018 at Hotel East Lagoon, Batticaloa. Prof. W. A. Weerasooriya, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya was the Chief Guest of the conference. Prof Chutima Sacchanand, Professor in Library and Information Science, Sukho thai Thamma Thirat Open University, Thailand and president, Thai Library Association, Thailand delivered the Keynote speech on “Transferring the roles of Libraries and Librarians in the Digital Learning Environment.



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

CoASL 2019

The 6th International Conference of Asian Special Libraries on Libraries and Librarianship in Digital Plus Era

Duration : 14th-16th February 2019
Venue : New Delhi, India.
Website : <http://www.slp.org.in/icoasl2019/>

40th Annual IATUL Conference

The International Association of University Libraries holds its annual conference

Duration : 23rd - 27th June 2019.
Venue : The University of Western Australia and Curtin University in Perth, Australia
Website [https : //www.iatul.org/about/news/40th-iatul-conference-perth-2019](https://www.iatul.org/about/news/40th-iatul-conference-perth-2019)

LIS 2019

The 2019 International Conference on Library and Information Science

Duration : 19th-21st January 2019.
Venue : Sapporo Convention Centre, Japan
Theme : Digital transformation and the challenges of the new information environment: reinventing library for the next user generation
Website : <https://iconlis.org/>

i-LKM

1st International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management

Duration : 25th-27th April, 2019.
Venue : East West University, Dhaka and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC)
Theme : Quality Information and knowledge management and dissemination updates from the key experts
Website : [https //milunesco.unaoc.org/](https://milunesco.unaoc.org/)

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Printer : NEO Printers



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