



NATNET LANKA

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நற்றெநற் லங்கா

Chinwe
25/2/1998

Newsletter on Library and Information Networks in Sri Lanka

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இலங்கை நூலக தகவல் விஞ்ஞான வகையமைப்பு தொடர்பான செய்திப்பிரசுரம்

National Library of Sri Lanka, No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Vol.2 No.2

ISSN 1391-2658

December 1998

NATIONAL LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES BOARD ACT

Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (SLNLSB) has been reconstituted by an Act of Parliament and is renamed the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB).

The new institution established under the National Library and Documentation Services Board Act No.51 of 1998 is entrusted with wider powers and responsibilities especially in library, documentation and publication fields.

The Governing Council of the NLDSB comprises 7 ex-officio members and 7 members appointed by the Minister of Education and Higher Education. The ex-officio members are the Secretaries of Ministries of Education and Higher Education, Public Administration and Home Affairs and Cultural and Religious Affairs; Chairmen of Council of Information Technology (CINTEC) and National Science Foundation (NSF), President, Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) and a representative from the Treasury. The Minister has appointed Messrs Henry Samaranayake (ex-Chairman SLNLSB), K. Jayatilleke (Author), S.M. Kamaldeen (Librarian), S. Sandrasekaran (Educationist), A. Sivanessa Selvam (Journalist) and Dayaratna Lankapura (Associate Editor/Silumina) as appointed members.

Mr. Henry Samaranayake has been appointed as the Chairman and Mr. M.S.U. Amarasiri as the Director General and the Chief Executive of the Board.

NATIONAL MEMBER OF THE FID FOR SRI LANKA

The National Library and Documentation Services Board has been designated as the National Member of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) Sri Lanka.

NATIONAL LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES 100 LECTURES CONDUCTED

With the aim of widening the knowledge of the general community as well as to create an awareness of the National Library and also to attract readers to the National Library, a monthly lecture programme has been conducted since June 1990. The lecture series commenced with a lecture titled "Development perspectives in the 1990s" by Dr Gamani Corea.

Under the lecture series, 100 lectures have been conducted upto September 1998. The 100th lecture was also delivered by Dr Gamani Corea, and was titled "Sri Lanka in a Changing World".

USIA INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAMME

Mr Upali Amarasiri, Director, National Library of Sri Lanka, participated at the USIA

International Visitors Programme, on an invitation of His Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States of America in Sri Lanka.

The theme of the programme was "Information Highway" and the duration was 4-28 August 1998. A total of 17 participants representing even number of countries attended the programme. Based on the professional background and present employment, the participants were grouped into four categories namely, Library Sector, Information Technology Sector, Telecommunication Sector and Journalism Sector. The programme was held in five major cities in the USA, namely, Washington D.C., Jackson, New Orleans, Syracuse and San Jose.

The Programme consisted of visits to a number of states and cities across the United States of America. It was carefully arranged to provide the participants an excellent overview of the current situation of the information highway and its future prospects. Participants were given the opportunity to meet with a large number of officials attached to various agencies of the federal government and representatives of large corporations in the fields of information and communication. These included legislators, officials in federal and state governments, academics and researchers, people involved in implementing Information Technology (IT) projects in education and other fields and personnel in large, medium and small corporations who are in the forefront of new innovation and IT.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

The National Library of Sri Lanka conducted a two day National Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Sri Lanka, which was held from 16-17 June 1998 at the National Library Auditorium. This Seminar consisted of six sessions and nine speakers made presentations on various themes related to bibliographic

control in Sri Lanka. 62 persons, including Librarians, Publishers and Officers of Government Departments participated at the Seminar.

LAN SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

A Local Area Network (LAN) was established at the National Library of Sri Lanka in 1998. The main purpose of the LAN system is to enhance the automated activities of the National Library, and to provide an efficient service to the users of the library as well as officers of the institution. Establishment of the LAN system is also one of the activities taken towards to commemorating the year of IT.

The LAN system has made provisions within the National Library to create and maintain databases, access to catalogues and CD-ROM's online and share network printers through a print server. The major databases available via LAN are the National Union Catalogue (NUC) and the National Library Catalogue (LCAT). In addition to these two databases, several databases created by the various divisions of the National Library could be searched linking to the LAN.

Windows NT Server is used as the operating system of the LAN and it comprises of 19 work stations which includes all the divisions of the National Library.

SSDC NEW AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

New and forthcoming publications of the Social Science Documentation Centre of the National Library of Sri Lanka are as follows :

◆ Directory of Government publications 1993 - 1994

The National Library of Sri Lanka commenced compiling this directory in 1990. This is the third in the series and covers the period from 1993-1994. Information on 824 government publications are given in the directory.

◆ **Directory of Social Scientists in Sri Lanka Part II**

Directory of Social Scientists in Sri Lanka is an attempt to identify the social scientists in the island, and to create an awareness about their specialised subject areas, completed and on-going research projects, publications etc. Part I of this directory was published in 1994, and includes information on 132 Social Scientists. Part II of the directory made an attempt to cover the social scientists not covered in Part I. Information on 126 social scientists are given in the directory.

◆ **Sri Lanka Newspaper Article Index 1994 (Sinhala)**

This is the second issue of the Sri Lanka Newspaper Article Index of Sinhala Newspapers. Information on important articles appearing in Dinamina, Lankadeepa, Silumina, Irida Divayina and Irida Lankadeepa have been indexed. The index contains bibliographical information on 2977 articles.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

The following are the new publications of the National Bibliographic Services Division of the National Library of Sri Lanka.

◆ **Bibliography on Sinhala Translations**

This bibliography includes Sinhala translations of creative literature eg. poetry, drama, fiction, screen plays, etc., published during 1947-1997. It contains bibliographical information on 900 translations and the entries are classified according to the literature class in the Dewey Decimal Classification. The bibliography also consists of five indexes namely as author title, translator, translation title and literary language.

SEMINAR ON INTERNET FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

To commemorate the year of Information Technology, National Library of Sri Lanka conducted a one day seminar on Internet for local government leaders on 26 November 1998. Participants were Mayors and Chairmen of Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Local Government and Chief Librarians of main public libraries attended as observers. 115 persons attended the seminar.

The objective of this seminar was to provide awareness on Internet and its usage to the leaders of local authorities and to persuade them to obtain Internet as part of the public library service.

Professor V K Samaranayake, Chairman CINTEC; Dr Gihan Dias, Head, Computer Science Department, University of Moratuwa; Mr S T Nandasara, Senior lecturer, ICT, University of Colombo; Mr Chanuka Wattegama, Systems Engineer, Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Mr Upali Amarasiri, Director, National Library of Sri Lanka served as resource persons.

SRI LANKA SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INFORMATION NETWORK (SLSTINET)

The establishment of Sri Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Centre (SLSTIC) in 1979 as the National Scientific & Technical Documentation Centre for the country under the umbrella of Natural Resources, Energy & Science Authority of Sri Lanka (NARESA) was the milestone in networking in Sri Lanka.

SLSTIC was identified as the national focal point of information networks on science and technology (S&T). It acts as the coordinating body for S & T information networks in Sri Lanka. SLSTIC established the Sri Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Network (SLSTINET) as

the umbrella network, to promote the resource development and cooperation among other S & T libraries in Sri Lanka.

SLSTINET is a non-profit organisation serving to develop strategies for information distribution and access in the field of science & technology. The role of the members of the network is to assist various end user communities in gaining access to information. As the coordinator SLSTIC has continuously invested in the development of this network. SLSTINET provides access to a wide array of library products and services and acts as a catalyst through which S & T libraries can pool their resources.

Key objectives of the network are :

- ◆ to support the building of an effective information infrastructure in the field of S & T.
- ◆ to take the leadership in the organisation of information on the S & T subset of the national information super highway.
- ◆ to help end users to define their needs, learn to use the available system and gain access to the information they need.
- ◆ to share resources available at member libraries.

To achieve these objectives SLSTIC as the coordinator SLSTINET has already commenced to development of the National Information Network by establishing a wide-area-computer network. SLSTIC's main areas of services are as follows :

- ◆ Database development
- ◆ Dissemination of local S & T information through Internet
- ◆ Dissemination of S & T information to the local scientific community by using IT.
- ◆ CDS/ISIS distribution and training

Membership includes :

- ◆ Libraries and Information Centres in the field of S & T
- ◆ Institutions which do not have professional librarians but are willing to share resources.
- ◆ Professionals in the field of library & Information Science

SLSTINET membership consists of 107 libraries

Contributions expected from Membership :

- ◆ To provide information in the development of cooperative activities
- ◆ To assist in the development of member libraries
- ◆ Inter-library loans under the umbrella of SLSTINET
- ◆ Provide information to develop databases eg. ULIST

Four sub-networks were established by SLSTIC namely AGRINET, ENLINET HELLIS and TECHNINET and later the responsibility of coordination was delegated to other libraries. All these networks are inter-connected and cooperate with SLSTIC in various activities such as cooperative acquisition of reference materials, inter-library cooperation, etc.

HELLIS NETWORK NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following publications have been prepared with financial assistance from the World Health Organisation.

- ◆ Union list of periodicals holdings of Health Science Libraries in Sri Lanka
- ◆ Index to the Theses and Case Reports : deposited in the library, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

copies are available on request from the library, Ministry of Health, 231, De Saram Place, Colombo 7. Tel : 696677

AGRICULTURAL DATABASE SYSTEM AT CARP

The Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) Library, which is the focal point of AGRINET (Agricultural Information Network) has built up an Agricultural Database System, to provide up to date agricultural data in a machine readable and user friendly form to its clients who are primarily agricultural scientists, extension officers, planners and the private sector.

A large number and a wide variety of useful agricultural databases namely, production data, agronomic data, agro-chemical data, socio-economic data, demographic data, research project data etc., have been assembled to build up a meta database of this system using CDS/ISIS software package. It contains 85 records in this meta database and can be accessed by source, subject, attribute, keywords or description.

PROJECT ON ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION NETWORKING AMONG SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTREPRENEURS (SME) SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS IN ASIA

The Centre for Industrial and Technology Information Services (CITIS) of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) has launched the above project with financial assistance of Technonet Asia of Singapore in July 1998 and will be completed in 1999.

Overall objective of this project is to establish an electronic communication network among selected SME support organisations in six project participating countries namely, **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam** for information collection, dissemination and to promote new information services based on the Internet to help information users to promote SMEs.

Specific objectives are :

- ◆ to link participating institutions to the Internet and develop their existing capacity to the network and enhance competency in organising information services, based on the needs of SMEs
- ◆ to prepare SME for business promotion via Internet facilities and help them gain access to international information sources and markets through Internet facilities
- ◆ to establish an SME information resource website in the participating institutions to assist SMEs and their support organisations to establish global linkages for tapping new business opportunities and technological information.

EXHIBITION ON RESOURCES AND SERVICES AT S&T LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA

Exhibition on resources and services at the Science and Technical Libraries in the SLSTINET (Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network) was held at the National Science Foundation from 1-2 December 1998.

The objectives of the exhibition were :

- ◆ to create an awareness among the general public and the scientific community on the resources and services available at S&T libraries and Information centres
- ◆ to promote co-operation among libraries
- ◆ to introduce new IT and provide a forum to demonstrate and explain how to utilise these technologies in information management.

10 libraries participated in this exhibition and these libraries were able to exhibit their resources, including databases, publications, etc. Along with the exhibition two one day seminars were held for information managers and the general public.

INFOTEL LANKA 98

South Asia's largest Information Technology Exhibition – INFOTEL LANKA '98 was held from 8-11 October at the Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Centre, Colombo. The exhibition was declared open by the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Batty Weerakoon.

Infotel '98 has brought together the latest innovations and trends in the field of IT. IT is also significant that it was held in a year which has been declared by the government as the year of Information Technology. The theme for Infotel '98 is **"Growing to Meet a Shrinking World"**. The exhibition consisted of a total of 151 stalls displaying products and services offered by the companies.

Some of the innovative features lined up concurrently with the exhibition were : digital arcade, best quality software, award for best stall, knowledge enhancing conferences, workshops and tutorials. The main international conference was held at the BMICH on 7 and 8 October 1998 and the theme of the conference was **"Exploiting IT for National Development"**.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (FOREIGN)

65th IFLA Council and General Conference

Duration : 20-28 August, 1999

Venue : Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre, Thailand.

Theme : On the Threshold of a New Century : Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World.

9th Workshop on Exploitation and Utilization of Scientific and Technical Information Resources in Asia-Pacific Region

Duration : 6-20 May, 1999

Venue : Beijing China

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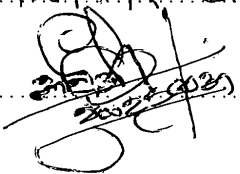
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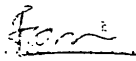
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