LAUNCHING OF REPRINTED OUT OF PRINT NEW CLASSICS PUBLICATIONS

Under its latest publication project the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) recently published the following books. The objective of this project is to encourage publishers to reprint high quality out of print Sri Lankan publications.

පියදාස සිරිසේන	- වලව්වක පලහිලව්ව
ජේ.ආර්. එරත්න	- රෝමාගේ වාසනාව
මහාචාර්ය සෙනරත් පරණවිතාන	- සිංහලයෝ
ජේ.බී. සේනානායක	- බටහිර ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ නවකතා
ඇස්.ඩබ.ආර්.ඩි. බණ්ඩාරනායක	- වර්ෂය සහ ගොයම් කෙත
එච්.ඩබ්ලිව්. කොඩිරිංටන්	- සංක්ෂිප්ත ලංකා ඉතිහාසය
මුகமது காசிம் சித்தி லெவ்வை	- அஷ்றாபுல் ஆலம்

GENERAL EDUCATION PROJECT - 2

Training of Trainers Programme

A three day workshop on Training of Trainers was held at the NLDSB on 29 and 30 March and 1 April 1999 as part of the GEP - 2, School Library Development Project. Ms Rosemary Raddon, an international consultant of the project, conducted the workshop which was attended by about 30 senior library professionals, most of whom work as part time trainers of the NLDSB. These trainers are expected to train the school library cadre of the project at the initial stage. The training techniques and a new school library training package were discussed at the workshop. Ms Raddon has worked as head of library science departments of a number of universities in the United Kingdom. She also has overseas consultancy experience in a number of countries including Papua New Guinea, Uzbekistan and Sierra Leon. The school library training programmes of the project commenced in early June 1999 in Colombo and Matara districts. The consultant conducted the first two programmes after which the local counterparts will takeover the exercise.

School Library Policy and School Library Standards

Ms A G S Yapa who was selected as a short term national consultant of the GEP-2 Project has submitted the draft School Library Policy and School Library Standards recently. Presently these documents are being studied at the NLDSB and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Workshop on the Library Component of the GEP - 2 Project

A one day workshop on the library component of the GEP - 2 Project organised by the SLLA and the NLDSB was held on 13 May

1999 at the auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Centre. The objective of the workshop was to create an awareness of the library component of the GEP - 2 Project among library professionals. Messers Senanayake Upasena, Additional Secretary of the ME&HE; M S U Amarasiri, Director General, NLDSB; S C Jayasuriya, Librarian, University of Colombo; Sepala Kuruppuarachchi, Deputy Director, School Library Division, ME&HE; Geetha Yapa, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo and Mahinda Ranaweera, Ex Consultant, ME&HE acted as resource persons.

Lecture

Ms Rosemary Raddon, an international consultant of the GEP - 2 Project delivered the 106th national library lecture titled "Knowledge Management - The Challenges of the Future for Librarians".

LIBRARY SOFTWARE DEMONSTRATION " ALICE FOR WINDOWS "

Softlink Asia Pvt Ltd. New Delhi, producers of the library automation software package "Alice for Windows" conducted a computer software demonstration programme for library professionals in Sri Lanka on 18 and 19 February 1999 at the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

A large number of library professionals participated in the demonstration programme. Dr Shailendra Kumar of Softlink Asia Pvt Ltd. conducted the demonstration.

INTERNATIONAL ISMN ADVISORY MEETING

The 7th International Standard Music Numbering (ISMN) Advisory Meeting was held from 25-26 March 1999 at the Music Publishers' Association Ltd. London.

Twenty four persons from 11 countries participated at this meeting. Mr Henry

Samaranayake, Chairman, National Library and Documentation Services Board attended the meeting. National Library and Documentation Centre is designated as the National ISMN Agency in Sri Lanka for the implementation of the International Standard Music Numbering System.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Sri Lanka National Bibliography Cumulative Volume 1996

This bibliography includes books and first issues of periodicals and newspapers published in Sri Lanka in 1996. It contains bibliographical information on 3,000 publications. The bibliography is in three parts - Sinhalese, Tamil and English. Each part consists of a classified section, an alphabetical index of author, title and series and a subject index. The classification is arranged according to the 20 edition of Dewey Decimal Classification.

SSDC NEW PUBLICATIONS

Directory of Social Scientists in Sri Lanka Part II

The objective of the Directory of Social Scientists in Sri Lanka is to identify the social scientists in the island and their specialised subject areas and research projects, publications etc. Part 1 of this directory was published in 1994, which included information on 132 social scientists. Information on another 126 social scientists are given in the directory.

The Publication priced at Rs-200.00 is available at the National Library book shop.

Y2K PROBLEM

CDS/ISIS users facing Y2K problems can obtain assistance from the Information Technology Division of the National Library and Documentation Centre.

Contact Person :
    Head
    Information Technology Division
    National Library and Documentation
    Centre
    14, Independence Avenue
    Colombo 7
    Sri Lanka
    Tel   : 688925, 698847 Ext. 258
    Fax   : 94-1-685201
    e-mail : natlib@slt.lk

ASIA PACIFIC INFORMATION NETWORK ON MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS (APINMAP)

The Information Services Centre of the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) is the focal point for the Asia Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP). The Network was launched by UNESCO in 1987 as a regional network. It is primarily designed to assist member countries to improve their capability in collecting, processing, disseminating and using research information and data on medicinal and aromatic plants. APINMAP is a voluntary co-operative programme in the countries of the Asia and Pacific Region whose objective is to promote information exchange in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants.

The designated network centre of APINMAP is the Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (AIBA), which co-ordinates the overall technical information activities of APINMAP. It is based in Los Banos, The Philippines. The information services centre of the ITI node of APINMAP, prepares bibliographic databases on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and the information is sent to the regional network centre. The databases produced by the participating countries are consolidated as a regional database by AIBA.

This database is available in diskette. It may also be requested in whole or in part in printed form. The referral database of information sources, research institutions and experts is also

available in diskette. Print-outs of specific items may be requested. The following products and services are also available for participating centres of APINMAP.

✧ Information packages on specialised topics for different target groups, including rural communities and health authorities are also prepared, either at the country or regional level.

✧ Factual and numerical databases for decision makers and planners, for researchers, scientists and health care personnel and for potential entrepreneurs.

✧ Online access to commercial databases, upon request.

Information Services Centre of the Industrial Technology Division commenced a project to collect and collate information available on selected industrially important medicinal plants of Sri Lanka and to make this information accessible to any interested person. In this project 10 industrially important plants were selected in consultation with both researchers and industrialists working in the field. Information was collected from both printed and electronic sources and classified into aspects such as botany and agriculture, chemistry and biological activity and industrial applications. Two databases have been created one with bibliographical information and the other with the actual information.

TRADE INFORMATION NETWORK SRI LANKA (TRADENET SL)

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB, which was formally known as the EDB) is the state organisation dealing with the promotion and development of exports from Sri Lanka. EDB was established in 1979 and presently functions under the Ministry of Internal and External Trade, Commerce and Food. The Trade Information Service is one of the divisions of the SLEDB.

To provide timely dissemination of trade information to exporters, businessmen, trade chambers, policy makers, officers of ministries and

statutory bodies, prospective buyers of Sri Lankan products and investors, the Ministry of Internal and External Trade, Commerce and Food established the Trade Information Network (Tradenet SL). Trade information includes information on products, products diversification, distribution channels, market trends, consumer preferences, trade opportunities, buyers, competitors, prices and trade regulations in markets of supplying country, cargo handling, custom procedures and trade statistics.

Objectives of the Tradenet SL are the development of a computerised trade information service; setting up of trade information servers; setting up computer networks at EDB; development of computer facilities at organisations identified by the Ministry and EDB which include EDB Regional Centres, Ministry of Internal and External Trade, Commerce and Food and World Trade Co-ordinating Centre (WTCC); linking up these organisations with EDB to provide accessibility to the information available at Tradenet SL; setting up or helping the setting up of similar computer facilities at other relevant government and business organisations; linking these organisations with EDB so that they have access to information available at Tradenet SL and vice versa and provision of Internet services.

Trade information on web and bulletin board service (BBS), e-mail, Internet and international database searches could be mentioned as major Tradenet SL services. Electronic links of Tradenet SL to global sources are DIALOG, DATASTAR, TRADSTAT, GREENBUSS, COMTRADE and INTERNET.

Integrated computerised information system of the Trade Information Services consists of an automated business library and in-house databases. The business library has a rich collection of primary and secondary sources such as research studies, journals, directories, etc. In-house databases have been designed to provide the latest information in minimum time cover such as international prices for selected commodities,

international buyers, Sri Lanka suppliers and manufacturers, products and market data, Sri Lankan trade statistics and trade statistics of competitor countries.

VIDYA LAN PROJECT

The National Science Foundation in collaboration with LEARN (Lanka Education and Research Network) has proposed the development of a high speed Local Area Network (LAN) along Vidya Mawatha to provide high speed, high band width connectivity to all scientific, professional and research organisations situated in the vicinity. As outlined in the LEARN phase II project, this proposal will develop the information services and network infrastructure of Sri Lanka.

The aim of the project is to develop an Optical Fibre LAN along Vidya Mawatha to enable resource sharing among the S&T Institutions within this area. Institutions concerned are

National Science Foundation (NSF) - former NARESA

Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) - former CISIR

Meteorology Department

National Institute of Business Management (NIBM)

Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP)

Hector Kobbakaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)

Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)

Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and other institutes

Objectives of the project

✧ Expanding phase two of the computerised S&T Information Project to enhance information dissemination and sharing between the S&T institutions along Vidya Mawatha.

✧ Improving and enhancing contributions from S&T institutions along Vidya Mawatha to the national information resources databases.

✧ Co-operative management of information resources

✧ Helping smaller organisations to participate in a wider network

✧ Reduce the cost of access to information and internet

SRI LANKA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION NETWORK (SLSTINET)

ACTION PLAN FOR SLSTIC
(Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Centre)
January - March 1999

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

Awareness seminar on Internet for S&T Institutes (already held at TRI)
Two workshops on PURNA (one already held)
SLSTINET meeting
Workshop on Win/ISIS
Seminar on PURNA (Feedback session)
Demonstration on CDS/ISIS Pascal Programmes

PROJECTS

Setting up of the training centre
Preliminary preparation for LAN along Vidya Mawatha (project proposal)

PUBLICATIONS

Directory of NSF Research grants completed during 1986-1998 with abstracts (prepared for printing)

WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL PLANNING OF LIBRARIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Sri Lanka Library Association in collaboration with the British Council organised a workshop on National Planning of Libraries, Resources and Services which was held from 1-3 February, 1999 at Hotel Renuka, Colombo. The workshop was conducted by Professor Derek G Law, Director, Information Strategy and Librarian Strathclyde University, UK. Professor Derek Law presented the lead paper titled **"National Information Policy: Luxury or Necessity?"** on 31 January 1999 at the British Council. This paper laid the background for the workshop. 46 senior librarians participated at the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to explore issues and policies necessary for information planning and strategies for Sri Lanka. The objectives are to consider the nature of information plans and the strategies necessary to achieve them, identify key issues and stakeholders whose involvement is necessary for the successful development of information plans and strategies, identify the major elements required for inclusion in an information plan for Sri Lanka, consider the extent to which Lankan libraries possess their own planning processes and contribution that they can make to the national information plan, assist Sri Lankan information professionals to adopt leadership roles in planning and preparing strategies for the information society and for the information age.

The entire workshop was divided into five sub workshops as follows:

Workshop 1	:	The Role of Sri Lanka in an information age
Workshop 2	:	Identification of key themes and stakeholders
Workshop 3	:	Nature of an information plan
Workshop 4	:	Local information plans and co-operation
Workshop 5	:	Summary of key themes

NEW LIBRARY BUILDING FOR COLOMBO UNIVERSITY

The new library building of the Colombo University was ceremoniously inaugurated by the Chancellor of the University, Deshamanya Dr P R Anthonis on 25 March 1999.

The permanent library building was constructed after more than 50 years of establishment of the University. Dr P R Anthonis - Vice Chancellor, Prof. W D Lakshman, former Vice Chancellor and Ms S C Jayasuriya, Librarian University of Colombo, addressed the gathering.

AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (AIRC)

The American Information Resource Centre (AIRC) which is an integral part of the United States Information Service (USIS) specialises in providing access to electronic information resources and databases, online and CD-ROM. The AIRC provides residents of Sri Lanka with a wide variety of services through its Information USA system. Information USA is a network of information resources on US political, economic, historical, social and cultural issues as well as business and management practices. The AIRC is equipped to provide the latest and most accurate information from its print and electronic media. The Information Resource Centre collection of over 5,000 volumes, 50 print periodicals and over 400 full-text and full-image journals on CD-ROM explores both the sustaining ideas of the American past and generative drive of the present. Immediate contact is maintained by subscribing to legal, business and social science on-line databases through the Internet and by subscribing to four leading newspapers as well as by receiving all magazines and CD-ROMs by air. The AIRC also maintains back –files of periodicals and the New York Times on microfiche from 1985 to 1993. The AIRC collection is especially strong in social, government and politics, economics and international relations, American history and literature, and American management practices.

CDNLAO WEBSITE

The website of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in the Asia and Oceania region (CDNLAO) was developed and hosted by the National Library of Australia. The website was created to fill an information gap in the region, and it is based on GABRIEL, the website of Conference of Directors of European National Libraries. The goal of the website is to be a single access point for retrieval of information about the functions, services and collections of the Asia Pacific National Libraries. Three main elements of the website are meetings, member libraries and other useful resources.

Website : http://www.nla.gov.au/cdnlao/

9th WORKSHOP ON EXPLOITATION AND UTILISATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION RESOURCES IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Ms Janaki Fernando, Assistant Director, National Library and Documentation Centre, Sri Lanka, participated at the 9th workshop on Exploitation and Utilisation of Scientific and Technical Information Resources in Asia Pacific Region, held in Beijing, China from 6-20 May 1999.

A total of 16 participants representing seven countries namely, Bangladesh, DPR Korea, India, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam attended the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce methods and experiences for the exploitation and utilisation of information resources; exchange experiences in business information service; introduce appropriate technology, technology transfer, development of new products and joint ventures and promote cooperation in joint research projects, education and training activities.

The workshop consisted of lectures on technical information services, presentation of country reports by participants, exchange of experiences among the participants, visits to a number of information centres and consulting service bureaus, small and medium sized enterprises, National Library of China, university libraries in Beijing and Xian City and the Patent Documentation Library in Beijing.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (FOREIGN)

Eleventh International Seminar : Library Building in a Changing Environment

Duration : 15-19 August 1999

Venue : Shanghai Library, Shanghai China

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.

Regional Workshop on Evaluation of APINESS (Asia-Pacific Information Network in Social Sciences)

Duration : 30 August - 1 September 1999

Venue : Bangkok, Thailand

Theme : Future Directions, Policies and Alternative Structures for APINESS

7th SRI LANKA STUDIES CONFERENCE

Duration: 3-6 December 1999

Venue : Canberra, Australia

Theme : ASIA, SRI LANKA AND DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES : Retrospect and prospect

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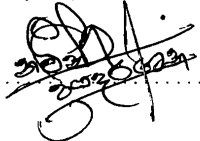Institute : National Library and Documentation Services Board

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