



# NATNET LANKA

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### நற்றெநற் ளங்கா

Newsletter on Library and Information Networks in Sri Lanka

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இலங்கை நூலக தகவல் விஞ்ஞான வலையமைப்பு தொடர்பான செய்திப் பிரசுரம்  
National Library and Documentation Centre, No.14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

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### WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODS

A one day workshop on Research Methods was held at the National Library auditorium on 10 September 1999. The workshop was organised by the National Library Committee of the NLDSB.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss various aspects of modern research methodology and familiarise researchers with library resources and bibliographical tools available at the National Library and Documentation Centre. About 80 post-graduate researchers in the fields of social sciences and humanities from all universities in Sri Lanka participated at the workshop.

Professors Granville Dharmawardena, Chandra Wickramagamage, Vinnie Vitharana, S T Hettige and Messrs Henry Samaranayake and M S U Amarasiri served as resource persons.

### SEMINAR ON ISBN

A seminar on International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN) was held at the National Library auditorium on 10 August 1999 with the objective of creating an awareness among book publishers on the ISBN and enlightening them on the modalities of implementation. About 75 publishers participated at the seminar.

Messrs Henry Samaranayake, M S U Amarasiri, Janaki Fernando and U P Alahakoon served as resource persons.

### SSDC NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following are the new publications of the Social Science Documentation Centre of the National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC).

- **Directory of Government Publications of Sri Lanka 1995/1996/1997**

The National Library and Documentation Centre commenced compiling this directory in 1990. This is the fourth in the series and covers the period from 1995 to 1997. The directory contains information on 1422 government publications.

- **Sri Lanka Conference Index 1994-1995**

This index is the fifth in the series and covers the period from 1994 to 1995. It contains information on 1,226 conferences, seminars and workshops, etc.

- **Sri Lanka Newspaper Article Index 1994 (Tamil)**

This is the second issue of the Tamil Newspaper Article Index. Important articles published in the Thinakaran, Virakesari, Thinakaran Varamalar and Virakesari Varamalar have been indexed. The index contains bibliographical information on 1,022 articles.

## SEMINAR ON ISSN

A seminar on International Standard Serial Numbering (ISSN) was held at the National Library auditorium on 14 October 1999.

The objective of the seminar was to create an awareness of the ISSN among serial publishers and to enlighten them on the modalities of implementation. About 30 publishers participated at the seminar.

Messrs M S U Amarasiri, Janaki Fernando and Soma Siriwardena served as resource persons.

## GENERAL EDUCATION PROJECT-2

### Training of Library Development Officers Programme

As part of the GEP 2, School Library Development Project, the National Library and Documentation Services Board commenced training of Library Development Officers in October, 1999. About 65 training programmes are to be held in the provinces under the project. Of this by mid December 1999 45 training programmes were held.

## NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

### Dewey Decimal Classification; 21 Edition (Sinhala Translation)

The Sinhala translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 21 was published by the National Library and Documentation Centre. It includes an introduction to DDC schedules, standards and sub divisions (Table 1) geographical areas (Table 2) and relative index. This publication was translated by Mr U P Alahakoon, Assistant Librarian and Head, National Bibliographic Services Division, NLDC.

The publication priced at Rs 250.00 is available at the National Library book shop.

## ACQUISITION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC), the focal point of the library system in Sri Lanka, launched a project to acquire Ph.D and M. Phil theses/dissertations. The theses/dissertations acquired by the NLDC, will be kept as a special collection for reference and research.

Criteria for the acquisition of theses/dissertations by NLDC are as follows :

- The thesis/dissertation should have been submitted to obtain a Ph.D. or M. Phil Degree from a recognised university or a similar institution in Sri Lanka or abroad.
- The author of the thesis/dissertation should be a Sri Lankan or the subject should be on or relevant to Sri Lanka.
- Theses/dissertations submitted after 1980 are given priority in acquisition. However, details of theses/dissertations prior to 1980 can be submitted to the NLDC for consideration.
- The NLDC will pay Rs 5000.00 as a fee for making an extra copy of the work.

## CD-ROMS AVAILABLE AT CARP

The Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) Library, which is the focal point of AGRINET (Agricultural Information Network) possesses the following CD-ROM databases :

BEAST CD (Animal Production and Dairy Tech)  
CAB CD  
CROP PROTECTION COMPENDIUM CD  
HORT CD (Horticulture and Plantation Crops)  
PEST CD  
VET CD (Veterinary Science and Animal Health)  
FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
ABSTRACT CD-ROM (Database covering the period 1990 onwards)

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN AGRINET LIBRARIES**

The Council for Agricultural Research Policy Library has compiled a list of libraries which can provide in-service training within the Agricultural Information Network in Sri Lanka. The areas of training are Cataloguing and Classification, Indexing, CD-ROM, E-mail and Internet, Binding, Audio-Visual and Printing. These Libraries are the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, National Institute of Plantation Management, National Science Foundation, Information Technology Institute, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, University of Kelaniya, International Irrigation Management Institute and Coconut Research Institute.

For more information contact :

Librarian/Information Officer  
CARP Library  
Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural  
Research Policy  
114/9, Wijerama Mawatha  
Colombo 7  
Tel : 697103  
Fax : 682951  
E-mail : carp@sri.lanka.net

## **NSF RESEARCH GRANTS 1999/2000**

Applications are invited by the National Science Foundation (NSF) from Sri Lankans working in universities, research institutes and other state and private sector organisations for the award of research grants. Under the Social Benefit Research Category, it focuses on research in the areas of social science, education, library and information science and information technology

The Research Grant Scheme is intended to provide assistance to supplement the financial, physical and manpower resources available for scientific research in the scientists' own institutions.

For further details contact :  
Director/Information  
National Science Foundation  
47/5, Vidya Mawatha  
Colombo 7

## **BANKING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION NETWORK (BFIN)**

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka with its library as the focal point is in the process of establishing a network for information sharing on banks and other financial institutions.

The broad objectives of the network are :

- to establish a formal relationship among the libraries in the field.
- to support the information needs of the participating libraries;
- to promote resource sharing;
- to have a comprehensive coverage and access to information;
- to develop a need-based collection development policy among the participating libraries as a cost saving mechanism;
- to organise training programmes to improve expertise among the staff of the participating libraries; and
- to develop compatibility of infrastructure for resource sharing.

20 banking, financial, development and research institution libraries have been identified as participating centres of the network.

## **WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING FOR EFFECTIVE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (NETELIS)**

The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) in collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) organised a workshop on Networking for Effective Libraries and Information Services (NETELIS) which was held from 17-23 October 1999 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo.

NETELIS is a "Plan for Action" to clarify resource needs in the Asia and Oceania region and to propose strategies for the development of improved networking operations in South Asia. It targets the wider international community, specially exploiting IFLA's services to assist in national development through national and global knowledge networks. It's medium term plan goals are the

provision of information to libraries in Asia and Oceania on resources and services that may assist them to lobby and gain support for libraries in their countries and to increase their knowledge of new developments in information technology and strategic planning with reference to library and information services.

The lead papers were presented by Dr Gihan Dias, Dr Ruwan Weerasinghe, Dr Nihal Kularatna and Mr Upali Amarasiri. These papers laid the background for the workshop. Country state-of-the-art reports were presented by the participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Professor Derek Law (UK), Mr John Shipp (Australia) Mr Terry Kuny (Canada) and Ms Mickey Hinojosa (USA) presented papers and served as overseas resource persons. The workshop sessions were chaired by Mr Harrison Perera and Professor Russell Bowden. About 75 foreign and Sri Lankan senior librarians participated at the workshop.

The workshop was divided into the eight following plenaries.

- Plenary I - The Issues
- Plenary II - South Asia situation - country state-of-the-art reports
- Plenary III - Lessons and relevancies from outside South Asia (demonstrations & hands-on)
- Plenary IV - International community - what can it contribute? (demonstrations & hands-on)
- Plenary V - I T lessons and relevances in developing countries (demonstrations & hands-on)
- Plenary VI - Lessons learned; difficulties noted; actions to be addressed
- Plenary VII - Draft Resolutions: Presentation
- Plenary VIII- Final Resolutions

### MEETING ON STRENGTHENING HELLIS NETWORK

An Intercountry Meeting on Strengthening the Health Literature Library and Information Services (HELLIS) Network was held from 26 - 30 July 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was

attended by 38 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. This included a group of experts who founded and nurtured HELLIS, Librarian of WHO/SEARO and other members from the WHO Secretariat, Librarians of National Focal Points and Librarians from Participating Libraries. Ms A G S Yapa, Senior Assistant Librarian, Medical Faculty Library, University of Colombo participated at the meeting.

The main objective of this meeting was to formulate strategies to strengthen the HELLIS network taking full advantage of the current and future technology, to enable it to provide the necessary information services to help health personnel and other users in meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### TASKNET '99

Towards a South Asia Knowledge Network (TASKNET) which is an International Conference on Global Knowledge for South Asia was held in New Delhi, India from 23-24 November 1999.

The TASKNET conference aimed to facilitate partnerships and exchange best practice on ways of harnessing technology to the provision of access to information and knowledge in poor and marginalised communities in South Asia. It will explore ways of building networks to preserve and promote indigenous or local knowledge and raise awareness of the important role that information and communications Technologies (ICT) can play in the emergence of better governance.

TASKNET'99 brought together representatives from a range of development organisations, from the grassroots to the international level. TASKNET '99 was co-hosted by the British Council, India and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in association with various national and international organisations. For more Information :

Tasknet Secretariat  
C/O British Council Division  
British High Commission  
17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg  
New Delhi - 110001



**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES  
(FOREIGN)**

**CDNLAO MEETING**

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries in  
Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)**  
Date : 25 April 2000  
Venue : National Library Singapore

**11<sup>th</sup> Congress of South East Asian Librarians  
(CONSAL)**

Duration : 26-28 April 2000  
Venue : Singapore  
Theme : Stepping into the New  
Millenium: Challenges for  
Librarians and Information  
Professionals

Contact : Julie Sabaratnam  
Chair, CONSAL 2000  
Conference Organising Committee  
National Library Board  
1 Temasek Avenue, # 06-00  
Millenia Tower,  
Singapore 039192  
E-mail : [julie@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:julie@nlb.gov.sg)

**Fourth World Conference on Continuing  
Professional Education for the Library and  
Information Professions**

Date : August 2001  
Venue : Chester, Vermont, USA  
Theme : Delivering Lifelong Continuing  
Professional Education Across  
Space and Time

Contact : Dr. Ash-Geisler  
Texas Women's University  
School of Library and Information  
Studies  
P.O. Box 425438  
Denton, TX 76204-5438  
USA

**66<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference**

Duration : 13-18 August 2000  
Venue : Jerusalem, Israel  
Theme : Information for Cooperation:  
Creating the Global Library  
of the Future

**Editorial Advice - Mr M S U Amarasiri  
Editor - Ms Janaki Fernando**

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Name : Iromi Wijesundara

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