

Chitra
19/12/2000



NATNET LANKA

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நற்றெநற் லங்கா

Newsletter on Library and Information Networks in Sri Lanka

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இலங்கை நூலக தகவல் விஞ்ஞான வலையமைப்புத் தொடர்பான செய்திப் பிரசுரம்

National Library and Documentation Centre, No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

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WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

A two day workshop on Scientific Research (Applied and Pure Sciences) was held at the National Library auditorium on 20 and 21 July 2000. The workshop was organised by the National Library Advisory Committee of the NLDSB.

The objectives of the workshop were to provide guidance on research methods in Pure and Applied Sciences for those who are engaged in research work, but have limited experience in the field and to introduce the resources and services of the National Library and Documentation Centre. About 55 research students and officers attached to universities and research institutions participated at the workshop.

Professors Granville Dharmawardena, J Jinadasa, H G Nandadasa, Kapila Dahanayake and M J S Wijeratne, Dr Nalin Ranasinghe, Dr Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Mr J A Amaraweera and Ms Janaki Fernando served as resource persons.

RARE BOOKS FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Dr Brendon Gooneratne of Sydney, Australia visited the National Library of Sri Lanka recently and donated 16 valuable palm leaf manuscripts from his personal collection. Titles of some manuscripts are Parajika Pali, Niraya Varnana, Dhamsac Sutra Vidhyava, Upasaka Janalankaraya, Dhamma Sanghappakaranaya, Majjima Nikaya, Sanyuktha Att Katta,

Angulimala Sutra Viyakyawa and Visudhi Magga. Dr Gooneratne was accompanied by his wife Prof Yasmine Gooneratne.

SEMINAR SERIES - EVALUATION OF THE NLDC ACTIVITIES

The National Library and Documentation Centre (NLDC) organised a seminar series to evaluate its activities of the first 10 years. The following Seminars were held.

Seminar on Documentation Services
6 July 2000

Seminar on Bibliographic Services
28 July 2000

Seminar on Reader Services
20 October 2000

Seminar on Acquisitions
29 November 2000

Three papers were presented at each seminar. The head of each division presented a base paper on the progress of the activities from 1990 – 2000. Two resource persons in the field presented papers on critical analysis and future plans of each activity.

LITERARY MONTH BOOK EXHIBITIONS

To commemorate the literary month of 2000, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organised a book exhibition and

a book sale from 25-30 September at the National Library. 30-75% discounts were given on books.

In addition NLDSB participated at the following book exhibitions during this period.

- Book exhibition held from 11-15 September 2000 at the Art Gallery, Colombo organised by the Book Publishers' Association
- Book exhibition held from 8-18 September, 2000 at the Colombo Public Library organised by the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

CD-ROMS AVAILABLE AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The following CD-ROMS are available at the National Library. Searches can be done free of charge. The charge for computer printouts is Rs 5.00 per page.

CD-ROMS

- Science Citation Index (from 1990 to date)
- Social Science Citation Index (from 1999 to date)
- Library and Information Science Abstracts (Lisa plus from October 1992)
- Hort CD (from 1973 to June 1996)
- Encyclopedia Britannica CD 1995
- Encarta CD 1997
- Tipitaka CD
- National Geographic CD (From 1888-1996)
- Index translationum cumulative since 1979, 6th ed. 1999
- Current contents on CD (From 1997 to date)
 - Life Sciences
 - Clinical Medicine
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Engineering, Computing and Technology
 - Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences
 - Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences
 - Arts and Humanities (print form)

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE DOCUMENTATION DIVISION

Sri Lanka (ISBN) Publishers Directory 1999

With the introduction of the International Standard Book Numbering System in Sri Lanka, the ISBN Agency of the National Library and Documentation Services Board was able to collect most current information on various aspects of the local publishing industry. The Directory was first published in 1987 and this is the 3rd edition.

The directory categorises publishers into three groups, namely, commercial, governmental and non-governmental and author/private. The current edition consists of information on 2,589 publishers. Each entry carries information on the name of publisher, postal address, telephone number and publisher prefix. The Directory is a valuable reference source for publishers, book sellers, librarians, authors and readers.

The publication priced at Rs 375.00 is available at the National Library Bookshop.

SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY

International Association for School Librarians has declared 16 October as the International School Library day. This day was commemorated in Sri Lanka too. The National Library and Documentation Services Board conducted a special seminar to commemorate the International School Library day. About 80 students from two schools in Colombo participated at this seminar.

The Ministry of Education has instructed Provincial Directors of Education to implement various programmes in schools islandwide to mark the occasion.

Messrs Sepala Kurupparachchi, S L Kuruppu, W S Punyawardena and Amara Nanayakkara served as resource persons.

RESEARCH ON READING HABITS

The publication titled Improvement of Reading Habits and Information Skills among Primary School Children is a result of a research project launched by the National Library and

Documentation Centre to commemorate the Year of Education Development, declared by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1997.

This research is an attempt at finding the causes for the reading habit to dwindle among children. The research was conducted by Ms Nanda Narangoda who was formally attached to the National Institute of Education. This publication will be useful for education policy makers, principals of schools, teachers as well as parents.

The publication which is in English and Sinhala is priced at Rs 160.00 each and is available at the National Library Bookshop.

ARTICLE ON NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA IN CDNLAO NEWSLETTER

An article on the National Library of Sri Lanka appeared in the Newsletter of Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) No. 38 June 2000.

The Newsletter can also be accessed via the Internet at the following address.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/lap/>

Copies can be obtained from :

International Co-operation Division
The National Diet Library Japan
Nagata - cho, Chiyoda Ku
Tokyo 100 - 8924, Japan
E-mail news@ndl.go.jp

CARP - LIBRARY SERVICES

Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) serves as the focal point of the Agricultural Information Network (AGRINET), which helps to share resources of 28 member libraries with scientists in the research institutes, universities and others in the agricultural sector.

Abstracts of scientific literature published worldwide on CD-ROM databases are provided by CARP to researchers. Bibliographies of research publications in the field with the geographical location of Sri Lanka have also been produced.

The CARP Library is an electronic library, and a further expansion of its activities to make it a state-of-the-art agricultural library is underway.

DATABASE ON NATURAL RESOURCES : NATURAL

Natural is a database created by the Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network (SLSTINET).

This database was built up with literature on natural resources in Sri Lanka and it covers the areas of biological diversity, coastal and marine resources, economic conditions and trends, energy resources, forest resources, heritage in natural resources management, inland aquatic resources, land resources, mineral resources, natural resources and the human environment of Sri Lanka, population, sustainable development and water resources. The database currently holds more than 1,000 records.

14 member libraries of the SLSTINET have contributed to the database by sending information of their holdings. Libraries which contributed are Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Eastern University, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Institute of Construction Training Development, International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), IIMI (Head Quarters), Institute of Chemistry, The World Conservation Union, Kotelawala Defence Academy, National Library and Documentation Centre, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, University of Colombo Medical Library and University of Ruhuna - Faculty of Agriculture.

ABIA - SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY INDEX

The Annual Bibliography on Indian Archaeology (ABIA) was initiated at the Kern Institute in Leiden, the Netherlands, with the help of Sri Lankan and Indian Governments in 1928. This institute provided a unique service to researchers in art and archaeology by publishing abstracts of books, articles etc. covering the disciplines in the South Asian context and was an indispensable research bank a ready reference to all scholars.

The new ABIA, renamed South and South East Asian Art and Archaeology Index, has introduced new techniques and advanced methods by computerisation and following international standards of indexing and abstracting. This project commenced in 1997 with the cooperation of institutions, the

International Centre for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, the Netherlands, Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology (PGIAR) in Colombo, Sri Lanka and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) in Bangkok, Thailand and other South and Southeast Asian countries.

The first publication of the ABIA project was published in 1999 and the second publication will be released soon. Apart from the printed bibliography, a wider database is available on the Internet (<http://www.abia.net>).

A public lecture and demonstration on the On-line Database of ABIA Project by Dr Ellen Raven, the chief editor of the South Asia ABIA project was held on 8 June 2000 at the PGIAR.

11th CONGRESS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LIBRARIANS (CONSAL)

The 11th Congress of South East Asian Librarians was held in Singapore from 26–28 April 2000 in conjunction with the First Asia International Book Fair and the International Library Expo. Participants from ASEAN countries, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Fiji, UK and other European countries attended the congress.

The theme of CONSAL XI was *Stepping into the New Millenium: Challenges for Librarians and Information Professionals*. Papers were presented on technical, ethical and legal problems faced by librarians.

CONSAL has been providing a forum for professional contact and exchange as well as promoting continuing education of librarians in the region.

CDNLAO CHANGES TO LAP

The National Library of Australia has developed a new website titled **Libraries of Asia Pacific (LAP)** region. This replaces the website of the **Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO)** region.

The LAP website incorporates the old CDNLAO website and new information on other libraries in the region. The site is located on the server of the Australian National Library at the following address.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/lap/>

TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

The Central Library of the Sarvodaya Sharamadana Sangamaya conducted a series of training programmes from June to October 2000 on library management for pre-school teachers and assistant bank managers.

Four three day training programmes were conducted for pre-school teachers and two three day training programmes for assistant bank managers. 132 pre-school teachers and 60 assistant bank managers participated in these training programmes.

INFORMATION ON LINE

Information on-line, an interactive exhibition of on-line resources was organised by the British Council Sri Lanka and held from 6–9 October 2000 at the British Council, Colombo.

The exhibition was accompanied by a series of workshops which looked at some of the new on-line resources. Workshops were held for NGOs; learners of English, booksellers and library professionals, journalists and photographers.

New points of access to information and learning materials were demonstrated and visitors were encouraged to explore the growing range of opportunities for self-development and learning.

NET SAFE, NET SMART TOOLKIT

The Canadian Library Association has launched Net Safe; Net Smart, a new web based toolkit on managing and communicating the Internet in the library. Building on a 50 year tradition of leadership to the library community on intellectual freedom and information access issues, the kit was developed in consultation with the CLA Executive Council Task Force on Internet Service in Public Libraries.

The Task force was appointed in the fall of 1999 to develop tools and strategies to assist public libraries in both offering and defending this service. The toolkit, now available online on the CLA web site, is a collection of practical resources designed by library and information professionals for use in staff and board training, as well as for public education programming.

<http://www.cla.ca/netsafe/netsafe.htm>

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

67th IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE

Duration : 16 – 25 August 2001

Venue : Boston, USA

Theme : Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age

Future Conferences of IFLA

68th IFLA General Conference Glasgow, 2002

69th IFLA General Conference Berlin, 2003

70th IFLA General Conference Buenos Aires, 2004

71st IFLA General Conference Oslo, 2005

72nd IFLA General Conference Seoul, 2006

10th World Congress on Health and Medical Informatics - Medinfo 2001

Duration : 2 – 5 September 2001

Venue : ExCel Congress Centre, London, UK

Theme : Towards Global Health – The Informatics Route to Knowledge

URL : <http://www.medinfo2001.org>

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

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