

# NATNET LANKA

Newsletter on Library and Information activities in Sri Lanka

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Now

**isbn** Online

The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) has made arrangements for publishers to obtain the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) and International Standard Music Number (ISMN) expeditiously online.

Accordingly, publishers all over the country are able to receive the relevant numbers from November 17<sup>th</sup> by accessing the website [www.isbn.lk](http://www.isbn.lk).

## NLDSB Staff donated their one day salary for the COVID fund



The staff of the National Library and Documentation Services Board donated their one day salary for the COVID fund. The cheque was handed over to the president by Mr. Sonala Gunawardena, Chairman, NLDSB.



## Golden Anniversary of National Library and Documentation Services Board

To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Library and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, religious programmes and commemorative ceremony were conducted in the latter part of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Board had decided to conduct these activities in simple and dignified manner.



Two Day Workshop in a series of workshops on Research Methodology were organized by the Research Division of the National Library of Sri Lanka. Its 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on “Methods of Data Collection & Sampling” was held on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at the NLSL premises with the expertise available in the respective fields.

# A National Policy for Library Profession



The National Library of Sri Lanka has started the formulation of a policy for the library profession. The preliminary activities of this task was started under the supervision of Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) at the National Library Conference Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Representatives from Sri Lanka Library Association Department of Library and Information

Science, University of Kelaniya, National Institute of Library and Information Science University of Colombo, University of Jaffna, Buddhasravaka Bhikku University and Open University of Sri Lanka participated in this initial discussion. Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director, Mr. W. Premadarsana, Assistant Director of the NLDSB were also participated in this meeting.

## *Editorial advice*

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Chairman

**W. Sunil,**  
Director General

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[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC263Gyih\\_Jp0sodYT3wYAGQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC263Gyih_Jp0sodYT3wYAGQ)

## Alms Giving and Pirith Pinkama



The all night pirith ceremony and alms giving to Maha Sangha to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) was held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>



September at NLDSB premises. This ceremony organised by the welfare society of NLDSB under guidance of Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General and Directors of NLDSB



Pirith ceremony was held on 17<sup>th</sup> and the alms giving for 25 bhikkus took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

## Assistance for Authors

Signing of agreements of 62 books approved in years 2016, 2017 and 2018 under the Publication



Assistance Project implemented by the Publication and Book Development Division of the National Library and Documentation Services



Board. It was carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 in NLDSB premises with the participation of Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, NLDSB.

The Publication Assistance Project implemented by the NLDSB is a highly regarded programme that has been supporting upcoming & veteran authors in the country since 1984.

## Felicitation for Dr. Leel Gunasekara Appreciated



A felicitation ceremony for appreciating the service of Dr. Leel Gunasekara as the President of “National Library Friends”

organisation took place on 21<sup>st</sup> January at the National Library auditorium. Dr. Gunasekara is a veteran writer distinguished administrator and former Inspector General of Police. “National Library Friends’ organisation was initiated in 2007 with the participation of those who are interested in National Library activities and those who are engaged in the library profession. Dr. Leel Gunasekara was felicitated in the

fifth anniversary ceremony of the “National Library Friends’ organisation. A large number of invitees including Prof. Kusuma Karunaratna, Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Mr. Dayapala Jayaneththi and other distinguished invitees participated in this occasion.

The guest lecture of the ceremony was conducted by Dr. Suresh Ragawan on “The contribution of the National Library in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations”

## Pansiya Panas Jathaka Potha Now available

The latest edition of Pansiya Panas Jathaka Potha edited by the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) is now available in the market. Pansiya Panas Jathaka Potha has been edited by a panel of scholars and consists of five

volumes. It can be purchased with a special discount from National Library Bookshop.

The latest edition of Pansiya Panas Jathaka Potha was handed over to the His Excellency President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by Mr. Sonala Gunawardana Chairman, NLDSB.



## NLSL signed a MOU with GARI



The National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Global Academic Research Institute (GARI) to enter into a partnership to promote access to online research publications through the NLSL's National Digital Library and Repository.

This MOU was signed at the NLSL on 16<sup>th</sup> December with a view of achieving NLSL's objectives: enhancing the information-sharing capabilities of the NLSL and to partner with other libraries and similar institutions in providing digital resources and services.



The personal collection of Venerable Mawarale Bhaddiya Thero was handed over to the National Library of Sri Lanka on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

## President handed over Bus Libraries to students on World Children's Day

In conjunction with the world children's day and inauguration of National Reading Month that facts on 1<sup>st</sup> of October, donation of "Bus Libraries" to schools in five districts took place in the Presidential Secretariat under the patronage of His Excellency President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The condemned buses which had been removed from running were repaired and arranged attractively for children and nearly one million rupees has been spent to develop a bus as a complete library. These libraries were symbolically donated to Lunuvila Anuruddha Central College, Puttalam, Dolosbage Junior Vidyalaya, Gampola, Tharmapuram Government Tamil mixed school, Vijaya Kumaratunga Vidyalaya, Kuruvita and Vidyarthodaya Maha Vidyalaya, Pilana, Galle.

This project was sponsored by Sri Lanka Transport Board, Sri Lanka Telecom, Mobitel, Manusath Derana and National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). These libraries were handed over with the books donated by publishers at the Colombo International Book Fair and books donated by various donors. Mobitel institute has provided e-library facilities and through this

**Library facilities have been started for 25 selected schools representing every district in the Island**

students can search information and use e-books. The objective of this project is to provide library facilities to selected 25 school libraries representing all districts of the Island.

The inaugural ceremony for handing over the first 5 buses took place under the patronage of in President Gotabaya



Rajapaksa Mr. Rohan Fernando, Chairman, SLT group, Mr. Sonala Gunawrdana (NLDSB), Mr. Lalith Senavirathna, Chief Executive Officer, SLT group, Mr. Kiththi Perera, Chief Executive Officer, SLT, Mr. Nalin

Perera Chief Executive Officer, Mobitel, Mr. M. B. P. Ferdinand as Chief Operation Officer, SLT, Mr. Prabath Dahanayake Chief Marketing Officer, Mobitel and other distinguished guests of Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel and Transport Board participated this occasion. His Excellency President Gotabaya Rajapaksa held a discussion with children about the



books. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa mentioned that the mental and physical health can be protected through providing library and sports facilities to all schools. President also invited children to visit the Presidential Secretariat.

## Making aware of the libraries on COVID-19

National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully implemented a programme to make aware of the libraries on the procedures to be followed in implementing library service in the COVID - 19 epidemic situation which has brought death to millions of people throughout the world.

In this programme, action was taken to make aware on how to use library books, action to be followed for the safety of the staff, as well as sharing information useful for the readers. This programme received a high appreciation from the library community in the Island.



## The Asia Foundation donates protective instruments and materials to the library sector in Sri Lanka to prevent the spread of COVID-19

The Asia Foundation has donated self-protective instruments and materials worth Rs. 1 million to the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to distribute among the public libraries in Colombo district. Face masks, face shields, surgical and rubber gloves, water based and



alcohol based disinfectants are some of the items donated that will help to protect library personnel as well as readers and prevent the spread of COVID -19. Priority is given for the public libraries in Colombo district as it has been identified as one of the high-risk areas for spreading COVID -19 in Sri Lanka.

State Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Republic of Maldives visited the National Library of Sri Lanka on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Mr. Sonala Gunawardena, Chairman of NLSL; Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of NLSL discussed the areas of cooperation. In the field of Library & Information science participatory training Maldivian Library professionals in Sri Lanka

# High appreciation for the Ratak Vatina Pothak - National Programme of writing 10,000 books

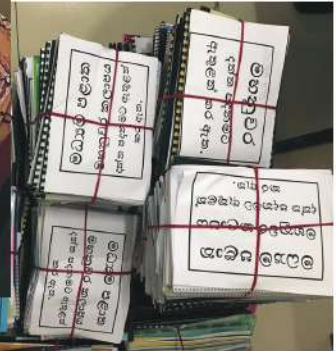
“The Ratak Vatina Pothak” national programme of writing 10,000 books implemented by the Ministry of Education and National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) with the objective the making more productive the time of 4.3 million school children spent Islandwide lockdown period at their homes due to COVID – 19 epidemic.

Objectives of this programme were brought under the guidance of Hon.

Dulas Alahapperuma, then the Minister of Education to improve



children. Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman of the NLDSB stated that this project was well received by the school children, teachers, and parents and the NLDSB has



the mental strength, creative ability, ability to win challenges and enhance reading habit of the

received over 40,000 mancrpts written by children Islandwide.

## 2020 ISBN AGM takes place in a virtual environment

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of ISBN agency was held virtually on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 owing to the COVID-19 crisis. It is the first year since 1978 that the

International ISBN Agency has been unable to hold a physical AGM.

However, despite the unusual format delegates from all national and regional ISBN agencies were

invited to participate as always. This year, that meant that delegates attended one of three identical sessions held online. The National Centre for ISBN in Sri Lanka sent its proposals and annual reports.



A meeting was held with the Minister of State for Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs Hon. Sarath Weerasekara at the Ministry to discuss the issues faced with the library sector in the provincial council system. He also agreed to provide equipment worth Rs.10 million for the development of regional digital libraries. The discussion was held on 09<sup>th</sup> of September

## Soma Jayakody Model Library to be opened soon



- Ms. Soma Jayakody a veteran and popular writer in this country has handed over her personal property to the National Library •

Arrangements are being made to open the Bandaragama Soma Jayakody model library and training centre affiliated to the National Library and Documentation Services Board in September to mark her birthday in January 2021.



This library consists of all sections required for a library including Reader Services Division and Training Division. The most important section of the Soma Jayakody model library

is the training centre with seating capacity for 100 persons.

Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman of the National Library

and Documentation Services Board made an observation tour in the library and said that the National Library and Documentation Services Board has already prepared plans to implement a number of programs to create a literary reawakening through this library which is constructed covering mainly the literary field as well as other subject areas.

Mrs. Soma Jayakody a veteran and popular writer in this country has handed over her personal property to the National Library for the promotion of literary field and the Soma Jayakody model library and training centre has been established in this premises.

## Dr. Michael Roberts donates his research collection



Dr. Michael Roberts, former Professor, Department of Anthropology at Adelaide University, Australia has donated his research collection of books, articles, journals, documents, etc ; to the National Library of Sri Lanka. The collection widely available for the benefit of the academics, researchers and general public worldwide.

Michael Roberts is a Sri Lankan-Australian, who received secondary and university education in Sri Lanka. He attended St. Aloysius

College, Galle and graduated with Honours in History at the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya before proceeding to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. After securing his D Phill in History, in 1965, he taught at the University of Peradeniya from 1966 to 1976. He joined the Department of Anthropology at the University of Adelaide, Australia, in 1997. He has retired and is now an Adjunct Associate professor at the same university.

# High Commissioner's book handed over to the National Library



The book "Tell us our story, Grandma" written by Mrs. Robina Marks, High Commissioner of South Africa in Sri Lanka was symbolically handed over to the National Library at the Temple Trees recently. The book was handed over by the High Commissioner to Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman NLDSB.

## *Dumbara mat designs proposed to UNESCO Intangible Heritage Register*

Dumbara mat design art unique to the Dumbara region was proposed to be included to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage Register. This proposal was submitted jointly by the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Before this the Ambalangoda string puppet, art was submitted as a proposal to this register and string puppet, art was declared as a world heritage.



## Workshop to mark the International Mother Language Day

A Ceremony to make aware of school children, media personnel and other relevant groups on the International Mother Language Day was held at the auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Services Board in February 2020. Professor Sandagomi Koparahewa, of the Department of Sinhala, University

of Colombo, Mr. Thilakarathna Kuruwita Bandara, veteran

media personnel and former editor of Silumina and Irudina

conducted lectures and they emphasized the importance of mother languages.

