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Inauguration of Diploma and Certificate Courses

The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) has been organizing training courses and workshops across the country for several years. These initiatives aim to enhance and update the knowledge of professionals in the library field, as well as

individuals interested in entering this profession.

In 2023, as part of its ongoing efforts, the NLDSB introduced weekend Diploma and Certificate courses focusing on specialized areas. The official inauguration ceremony for these study programs took place on January

20, 2023, at the main auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. Dr. Suren Raghavan, the State Minister of Higher Education, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



A two-day workshop on quantitative data analysis using SPSS was successfully conducted on June 8–9, 2023, at the NLDSB premises.

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Training Programme for School Librarians

A two-day training programme for school librarians in the Minuwangoda Educational Zone was held at the Minuwangoda Education Office Auditorium on May 24–25, 2023. The program aimed to enhance librarians' professional skills, improve library management practices, and promote the role of school libraries in fostering a reading culture among students.



Ethics and Leadership for Successful Public Service

The 22nd programme of the "Meet an Expert" session, on "Ethics and Leadership for a More Successful Public Service," was successfully held on June 21, 2023, at the NLDSB premises.

The session featured Mr. Chandana Ekanayake, Additional Commissioner General of the Department of Prisons, as the resource person. He provided valuable insights on the ethical responsibilities of public service professionals, the

importance of leadership in government institutions, and strategies for maintaining integrity and accountability in the public sector. This was well-received, fostering professional growth and meaningful discussions among participants.



33rd Anniversary Celebration of the National Library of Sri Lanka

The 33rd anniversary celebration of the National Library of Sri Lanka (1990–2023) was held on April 26, 2023, at the institution's premises.

The commemorative lecture was delivered by Professor Sadagomi Coprahewa, Head of the Department of Sinhala Studies, University of Colombo. As part of the event, several significant activities took place, including:

- The publication of the National Union Catalog
- Certificate distribution to graded libraries
- Donation of book sets to various libraries
- Issuance of certificates related to home library registration

The event was attended by the Prof. Nanda Dharmarathne, Chairman, Mr. W. Sunil, the Director General of the National Library of Sri Lanka, distinguished guests, and staff members, marking an important milestone in the NLDSB's history.



Book Donation for the Children's Library at Galewela Rural Hospital



The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) made a significant contribution by establishing a Children's Library at the Galewela

Rural Hospital. This initiative aims to provide young patients and visitors with access to educational and recreational reading materials, fostering a love for books and

learning even in a hospital setting. The donation included a diverse collection of children's books, ensuring a nurturing and engaging environment for young readers

The National Library of Sri Lanka has organized a series of "MEET AN EXPERT" programmes on monthly basis.

➤ Prof. Shihan De Silva

Heritage was explored in the 21st edition

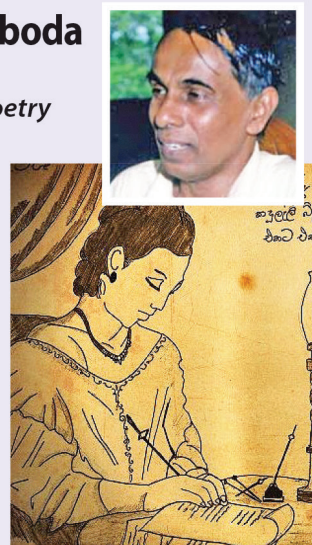
The heritage of the Afro-Sri Lankan community was explored during the 21st edition of the Meet an Expert program, held on 15 May 2023 at the National Library Auditorium. Utilizing Zoom technology, the session was conducted successfully. The resource person for the event was Prof. Shihan De Silva Jayasuriya, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.



➤ Prof. Kamal Waleboda

Modern Contemporary Trends in Traditional Poetry

On 23 March 2023, Professor Kamal Waleboda, Chairman of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Board of the Arts Council of Sri Lanka, delivered a lecture on "Modern Contemporary Trends in Traditional Poetry." The lecture was held at the National Library premises and was also made accessible virtually via Zoom technology.



➤ Dr. Ruwan Gamage

Dr. Ruwan Gamage delivered a lecture on "Archives in the Library: An Exploration of the Archivist Role of Librarians in the Digital Age" on 26 June 2023 via Zoom technology.



➤ Geetanjali R. Ranawaka

The Influence of Copyright Law on Libraries in the Era of Online Book Publishing

On 26 April 2023, Mrs. Geetanjali R. Ranawaka, Director General of the Sri Lanka Intellectual Property Office, delivered a lecture titled "The Influence of Copyright Law on Libraries in the Era of Online Book Publishing" at the National Library premises. The lecture was also conducted virtually via Zoom.



➤ Sunetha Mangalika Weerasinghe

The Role of Women in National Development

The Meet an Expert programme on "The Role of Women in National Development" was successfully held on 22 March 2023 at the NLDSB auditorium, in hybrid mode. Mrs. Sunetha Mangalika Weerasinghe, the founder and dedicated social worker of rehabilitation centres and children's homes, served as the resource person for the event.



➤ Dr. N.D. Wijayasundara

Utilizing Electronic Databases for Research Support

Dr. N. D. Wijayasundara, Librarian of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, delivered a lecture on "Utilizing Electronic Databases for Research Support" via Zoom technology on 16 May 2023.



➤ Anjani Wickrama

Let's tell children a story

Ms. Anjani Wickrama, Senior Manager (Programme) of Lak FM Radio, conducted a discussion on storytelling under the theme "Let's Tell Children a Story" on 26 May 2023 via Zoom technology.

➤ Dilip Kumara Nanayakkara

Strategies for Digital Preservation in Folklore Conservation

Folklore expert and curator at the National Archives Department, Mr. Dilip Kumara Nanayakkara, delivered a presentation titled "Strategies for Digital Preservation in Folklore Conservation" on 28 March 2023 at the National Library, in hybrid mode.



33th Anniversary Celebration of the National Library held at Soma Jayakody Model Library

As part of the 33rd Anniversary celebrations of the National Library of Sri Lanka, a Vesak Bakthi Gee recital was held at the Soma Jayakodi Model Library on 30 May 2023. The event was attended by the presence of veteran author Ms. Soma Jayakodi, Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services

Board, Mr. W. Sunil, and Assistant Director, Mrs. Iromi Wijesundara.

The recital created a serene and devotional atmosphere, reflecting the cultural and spiritual significance of Vesak. It also served as a meaningful tribute to the National Library's long-standing contribution to preserving Sri Lanka's literary and cultural heritage.



Workshop on the KOHA Database

A one-day workshop on the use of the KOHA database was held on 11 May 2023 at the NLD SB premises for librarians and library staff. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' knowledge and practical skills in utilizing KOHA, an open-source integrated

library management system. Over 120 officials, representing a diverse range of libraries, actively participated in the session. The event provided valuable insights into the functionalities of KOHA, including cataloging, circulation, and user management, with

a focus on improving library services and operational efficiency. The workshop also offered a platform for networking and sharing best practices among library professionals from various institutions.



Open Membership Drive for Children

In celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the National Library of Sri Lanka, a special free membership programme for young readers was conducted on 29 April 2023 at the National Library premises. This initiative aimed to encourage children's reading habits and foster a love for books and learning. The programme featured a variety of engaging activities,

including a painting workshop led by a renowned artist and a Children's Story Hour, designed to captivate young minds with fascinating tales.

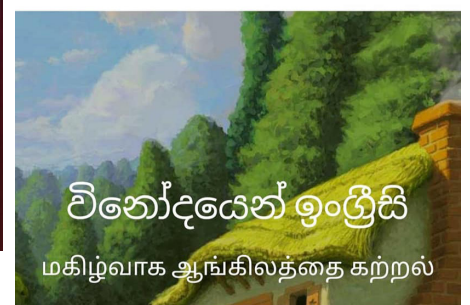
A group of distinguished officials attended the event. The day's activities not only emphasized the importance of reading for children but also showcased the library's commitment to nurturing

creativity and intellectual growth among young generations. The event successfully attracted a large number of children, offering them a unique opportunity to explore the library's resources and become lifelong members of the National Library community.



ENGLISH FOR FUN

MENU

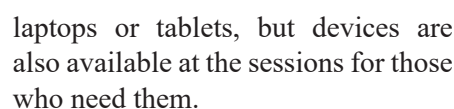


English for Fun Programme - Middle Level Syllabus

The Middle Level syllabus for the English for Fun programme was officially introduced by Dr. Madubashini Disanayake Rathnayake on 29 April 2023 at the National Library Auditorium. The event was graced by Emeritus Professor J.B. Disanayake, who led the session and provided valuable insights into the curriculum's goals and approach. The English for Fun programme aims to make the learning of English engaging and enjoyable for children, focusing on interactive methods and practical language use.



The event also provided an opportunity for educators, parents, and children to explore the exciting new syllabus and understand how it will foster language development in an enjoyable and engaging environment.



The primary objective of the CoderDojo at Libraries program is to provide students across the country with free and easy access to STEM education in a convenient, interactive setting. The initiative adopts a creative, hands-on approach to delivering course content.

The sessions are entirely activity-based, allowing students to identify and solve real-world problems either individually or in groups. Participants are encouraged to bring their own

Currently, CoderDojo at Libraries sessions are held on the second Saturday of every month at public libraries in Colombo, Batticaloa, Kirimatiyana, Hanguranketha, and Doluwa. STEMUP plans to expand the initiative in the coming months to cover 25 libraries across each of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka.

Registration of Domestic and Non- Governmental Institution Libraries

The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) has launched a programme to register domestic libraries and other libraries operated by non-governmental institutions. This initiative aims to support libraries run by households and non-governmental organizations, with the goal of fostering and enhancing the reading habits of people at the community level.

If you are currently operating such a library, or are planning to start one, the NLDSB will provide guidance on how to manage a library effectively and deliver quality reader services.

Registered libraries will be considered for annual training programmes, book donations, and other forms of support



Applications and further information
can be obtained by:

- Visiting the NLDSB website: www.natlib.lk
- Visiting the Board in person
- Sending a written request to:

**The Chairman, National Library and
Documentation Services Board
No. 14, Independence Avenue
Colombo 07**



Book Donation for 39 Schools in Uhana Education Division

On March 30, 2023, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organized another successful book donation programme aimed to uplift the school libraries collections in rural areas. This initiative, part of a broader effort to foster reading habits among schoolchildren, was held at Uhana Maha Vidyalaya in the Ampara District.

As part of the programme, 39 schools in the Uhana Education Division received book donations. In addition, a one-day training session was conducted for the teacher-librarians of these schools to strengthen their capacity to manage and develop library services effectively.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including: Ven. Horana Pagganarathana Thera, Assistant

Director of Education (Languages and Humanities), Ampara Education Zone, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, NLDSB, Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director, NLDSB, Mrs. Iromi Wijesundara, Assistant Director, NLDSB, Mr. U.G.R. Shantha Kumara, Deputy Director of Education, Ampara Education Zone and Mr. H.M.S. Parakrama, Principal, Uhana Maha Vidyalaya.



On 22nd June 2023, a Reading Camp was successfully held at Sivali Central College, Ratnapura, with the aim of promoting a love for reading among school children and encouraging lifelong learning habits. The event was organized with the participation of students, teachers, and library professionals, and featured a range of interactive reading activities designed to engage and inspire young readers.

Reading Camp Held at Sivali Central College, Ratnapura

Notable attendees included Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), and Mr. C. M. Safeeq, along with several other education and library development officials. The camp

created an energetic and enthusiastic environment that emphasized the importance of reading as a foundation for academic success and personal development.

