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Newsletter on Library and Information Activities in Sri Lanka

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60th Milestone of National Bibliogrphy of Sri Lanka









On October 26, 2002, a commemorative event took place at the National Library and Documentation Services Board to honour the 60-year milestone achieved in 2022 through the compilation of the National Bibliography of Sri Lanka. This significant endeavour has played a vital role in preserving the rich history of the nation. National Library and Documentation Services Board Chairman Professor Nanda Dharmaratne along with Director General W. Sunil and other senior staff members including the editors and former heads of the bibliographic edition of the Bibliographic Control Division were in attendance. The retired staffers of the Bibliographic Control Division were also present. The opening speech at this celebration was delivered by former Director General of the board Upali Amarasiri. Guest lectures were given by Senior Professor W A Weerasuriya from Kelaniya University and Senior Assistant Librarian Uditha Alahakon from the National Institute of Library and Information Science.

Bus Library Project at Kegalle



On 10.09.2022, the final bus was delivered to Kandaloya Tamil Maha Vidyalaya in Kegalle as part of the bus library project.

Meet an Expert via Zoom



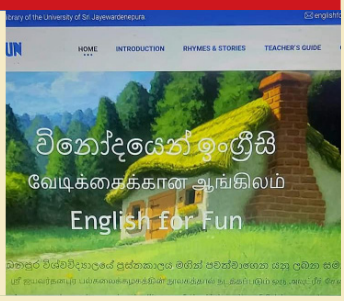
On December 28, 2022, Anusha Gokula Fernando, the Director General of the Department of Manpower and Employment, delivered a lecture via ZOOM technology. The lecture focused on the topic of "Country Development, Equality, and Achieving a Fulfilling Life."

Begin English for fun aims at pre- school children









A project named "English for Fun" was initiated to provide a fun and easy way for pre-school children to learn English. On 13.12.2022, the project's webpage was launched through the Sri Jayawardenepura University Library. Chairman Professor Nanda Dharmaratne, Director General W.Sunil and Director Senani Bandara were present for this occasion.

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Now Soma Jayakodi Library Opens for Lending



On 28.10.2022, the Soma Jayakodi Model Library and Training Center commenced the release of books. This event was graded by Senani Bandara, the Director of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, and K. Waduge, the Director of Finance and Administration



National Library Partners with Chinese Language and Culture Center

The National Library and Documentation Services Board were represented by the Chairman and Secretary of the Chinese Language and Culture Center, along with Dr. Varuna Chandrakirthi and Director General W. Sunil. The representatives from the Chinese Language and Culture Center expressed their intention to distribute the institution's published works nationwide, in collaboration with the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Workshop to Revitalize Inactive Libraries

The National Library and Documentation Services Board organized a training workshop on 30.08.2022 and 31.08.2022, focusing on the activation of inactive and new libraries. Dignitaries from various organizations, including the Sri Lanka Railway Department, Agrahara Insurance Board, Japan Tech, Ministry of Sports, and Panadura Engineering Service Corps, actively participated in the program.



Reading Camp at Soma Jayakodi Library





On 06.12.2022, the National Library and Documentation Services Board organized a reading camp at Soma Jayakodi Library. The event was attended by the students of Walgama Sri Saddhatissa National School and was led by Senani Bandara, the Director of the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Book Donation for Deniyaya Piriven Libraries





The donation ceremony for books intended for Piriven libraries in Deniyaya took place on December 5, 2022, at the Deniyaya Teacher Training Center. W. Sunil, the Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, along with a group of officials, attended the event. A lecture was delivered by Ven Prof Dr. Malwane Chandrarathana Thera, the Head of the Sinhala Studies Department at Kelaniya University.

Awarding of certificate to Graded Libraries





On 25.10.2022, a ceremony was held under the patronage of Professor Nanda Dharmaratne, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, to recognize and award certificates to libraries. The event was also attended by Director General W. Sunil and other senior officials.
A Book donation programme was also conducted for these graded libraries as part of the event.

Digital library for Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha







On 31.10.2022, the Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha premises in Opanayake in the Ratnapura district, witnessed the inauguration of a state-of-the-art digital library. This initiative is part of the government's program to establish digital libraries throughout Sri Lanka. Under the guidance of Sabaragamuwa Governor Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, this modern library has been seamlessly integrated with the National Library and other digital libraries across the nation. As a result, individuals will now have access to electronic versions of books contributed by all these libraries in the cyberspace.

The National Library and Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka Information Technology and Communication Agencies have jointly launched these digital libraries to cover all the districts of the island.

National Libraries are set to be interconnected through the implementation of modern digital infrastructure. By consolidating the bibliographies of these libraries into an information system, individuals will have the convenience of accessing information about the books they require online.

Furthermore, in the future, provisions will be made to allow users to reserve the necessary books in advance. The renowned KOHA software system has been employed for this purpose. This initiative will grant citizens effortless access to electronic information and e-books for educational purposes. Additionally, this library system encompasses a dedicated unit aimed at teaching children how to effectively utilize digital educational tools, fostering the development of their creative abilities. Moreover, readers can also benefit from services such as document scanning, printing, and photocopying, all conveniently available at this digital library.

In addition to facilitating connectivity with other libraries, the integrated library management system allows library staff to efficiently and easily maintain their services. Various individuals, including Sabaragamuwa Governor Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, State Minister Janaka Wakkambura, Parliamentarian Mudita de Soyza, Sri Lanka Library and Documentation Services Board Chairman Prof. Nandana Dharmaratne, and Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency Chief Digital Officer Kanchana Kudugala, also delivered speeches during the event.

Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Kalum Helapalla, Governor's Private Secretary Manjula Idigahawela, and other participants were present.

Port City Colombo Celebrates 8th Anniversary and Children's Day with Book Donation to Library



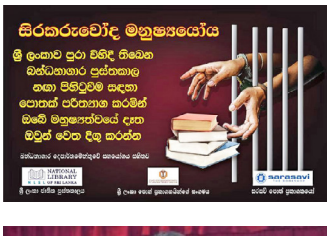
Marking the 8th year Anniversary of Port City Colombo Development Project and celebrating Children's Day in Sri Lanka, CHEC Port City Colombo (CPCC), donated 2,500 translated copies of its inspiring and educational Children's Storybook, "City Rising from the Ocean", which has been translated into the Sinhala and Tamil Language.

The book was originally published in English in 2021, when 2,000 copies of the book were donated to the National Library of Sri Lanka, with the intention of inspiring future generations through an engaging story about developing Port City Colombo as the first ever master planned city built on reclaimed land thriving to drive the economic and social development of Sri Lanka.

First two copies of the books were officially handed over to Mr. W. Sunil, the Director General of the National Library, by a delegation of Senior Officials representing CPCC, led by Mr. Shalaka Wijeyaratne, Assistant Executive Director – CIFC Development at CPCC. Also present at the official handing over ceremony were, Ms. Padama Bandaranayake, Director – National Library, Ms. Iromi Wijesundara, Assistant Director, Extension Services, Ms. Anoma Wijesinghe, Assistant Director, Bibliographic Control Division, and Mr. Maitre Jayasundara, Assistant Director – Library Research Division.

Donates 5000 Books to Prison Libraries Through *'Sipiri Geta Pothak'* Program







The National Library received a generous donation of over 5000 books from the donors at the Colombo International Book Fair through the "Sipiri Geta Pothak" program. These books were then handed over to the prison department libraries at the National Library Auditorium on 06.10.2022.

The event was attended by esteemed individuals including Professor Nanda Dharmaratne, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Director General W. Sunil, Prisons Commissioner General Thushara Upuldeniya, Additional Prisons Commissioner General Chandana Ekanayakea, and other senior officials.

Opening ceremony of THE NATIONAL READING MONTH



The Kirimatiana Public Library of Wennappuwa Pradeshiya Sabha celebrated the opening ceremony of the National Reading Month and the automation of their library on 04-10-2022. The inaugural ceremony, held at the Kirimatiyana Public Library, embraced the theme "Reading for a Knowledgeable Society" to mark the National Reading Month. On this day, Mahinda Prasad Masimbula, a renowned author and speaker, delivered a literature lecture. Simultaneously, the inauguration of the Kirimatiyana Digital Library took place. This project was a collaborative effort between the National Library and Documentation Services Board and the Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency.







International SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY



To commemorate International school library Day literary lecture took place at the National Library on October 19, 2022, with the participation of schoolchildren. The lecture was delivered by Ven Professor Malwane Chandrarathana Thera, the Head of the Sinhala Studies department at the University of Kelaniya. A-level students representing Royal College, Ananda College, Nalanda College, DS Senanayake College, Sirimavo Bandaranaike College in Colombo participated.













2022-Research conference



The National Library Research Conference took place on 08.09.2022, with the aim of exploring the role of libraries in enhancing and sustaining quality education. The conference was chaired by M. N. Ranasinghe, the Secretary of the Education Ministry. Throughout the event, a total of 15 research papers were presented across three sessions. The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Prithiviraj Perera, former Director Secretary of Sri Lanka UNESCO National Board, focusing on the contribution of libraries to quality education.

Additionally, the Guest Lecture was conducted by Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunga, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission, who emphasized the importance of empowering the library system in shaping educational policies..



An awareness workshop on ISBN online system





On 17.11.2022, the National Library and Documentation Services Board hosted a workshop focused on the ISBN Online System and the education of Publishers and Printers. The workshop saw participation from various entities including public libraries, university libraries, and individuals associated with the field.








Army HQ Opens State-of-the-Art Library Facility

The Sri Lanka Army opened a most modern library facility recently. The Sri Lanka Army Headquarters embodying the core philosophy of learning and sharing of knowledge and expertise supplemented it with a long-felt need of an open-source new Library, equipped with modern advances in technological and software library management during a special ceremony, held at the Army Headquarters.

The Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage who was behind the conceptual guidance for establishment of this New Library with more than 9000 volumes and reference materials arrived there for inauguration of this new fountain of knowledge. It was set up in less than 40 days in consultation with the NLDSB of Sri Lanka which was instrumental in introducing the world-renowned'Koha'LibraryManagement System with barcodin g and electronic categorizing.









At the Bandaranaike International Book Fair in 2022, the National Library Board book stall attracted the attention of the public.

Former chirman NLDSB Prof. Oliver Abeynayake is no more …



We are saddened to hear about the passing away of Oliver Abaynayake, a renowned scholar in Pali Theravada Buddhist Studies.

He serverd as a charman of national Library and documentation Services Borad -2015(April- September)



A workshop was held on zoom technology on 21.12.2022, from 10 am to 12:00 AM, discussing the role of libraries in Sri Lanka in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, based on the SDG study report.



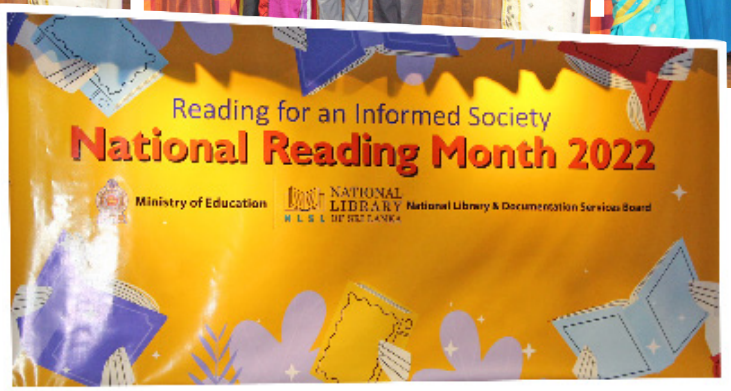



NATIONAL READING MONTH-2022

AWARDS CEROMENY







Every year since 2004, October has been designated as the National Reading Month in Sri Lanka, with the objective of encouraging reading habits within the local community. This year's National Reading Month program revolves around the theme "Let's Read for an Informed Society."

As part of this initiative, schools, public libraries, university libraries, and other educational institutions, governmental and non-governmental, located throughout the country, arrange diverse programs to foster reading habits at different levels. The assessment of the impact made by these establishments in promoting reading habits among the general population is carried out during the annual National ceremony, held in conjunction with the National Reading Month. The award ceremony took place on December 14, 2022, at 9:00 am, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board. The event was chaired by Senior Professor Sudanta Liyanage, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura.

READING CAMP





On 14.10.2022, a reading camp was arranged at Bombuwala public library, where approximately 60 students actively took part.