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Restoration of the Martin Wickramasinghe Collection and Museum at the National Library

In commemoration of the 134th birth anniversary of the esteemed Sri Lankan author Martin Wickramasinghe, the National Library of Sri Lanka successfully inaugurated the restored Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Documentary Collection and Museum on 29th May 2024.

Following the extensive renovation of the National Library of Sri Lanka, the official reopening of the Martin Wickramasinghe Folklore Collection and Museum was held at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena,

graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, underscoring the national significance of preserving Wickramasinghe's literary and cultural legacy.

The restored museum prominently showcases Martin Wickramasinghe's literary works, his personal library, and various artifacts and equipment associated with his life and contributions to Sri Lankan literature and folklore studies.

As part of the commemorative proceedings, Professor Jayadeva Uyangoda delivered the Martin Wickramasinghe Birth Anniversary Address, titled "Reading Books and

Writing Books: The Example of Martin Wickramasinghe". Additionally, Mr. Dayapala Jayaneththi presented a special guest lecture on "Martin Wickramasinghe Folklore Collection and Museum," delivered valuable insights into the importance of preserving and documenting Sri Lanka's rich folklore traditions. The event was attended by a distinguished gathering of scholars, literary experts, and representatives of the Martin Wickramasinghe Board of Trustees, who collectively paid tribute to the enduring legacy of one of Sri Lanka's most influential literary figures.

Training Programme for Public Library Staff on KOHA Data System

A three-day workshop on "Integration of Library Management System Using KOHA Data System" was conducted from February 27th to 29th at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). The workshop provided training for public librarians, library staff, and professionals interested in library automation and management using the KOHA system. Participants gained hands-on experience in implementing and managing KOHA, enhancing their ability to streamline library operations effectively.

The workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis



A two-day workshop on Qualitative data analysis and NVivo software was successfully conducted by the Research Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) on April 4th and

5th at the NLDSB. The workshop aimed to equip participants with essential skills in analyzing qualitative data using NVivo, a popular software tool that helps researchers manage, analyze, and visualize qualitative data.

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Lecture Focuses on Safe Use of Social Media and the Internet

The 11th session of the Digital Library Lecture Series, themed "Safe Use of Social Media and the Internet," was successfully conducted on 13th June 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) premises and was also streamed live via Zoom to ensure broader accessibility.

The session featured an insightful presentation by Mr. Charuka Damunupola, Senior Information Engineer at Sri Lanka CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team) Institute, who provided expert guidance on cybersecurity, digital

literacy, and responsible online behaviour.

The interactive session allowed participants to engage directly with the expert, asking questions about common cybersecurity risks, misinformation, and data protection strategies. The programme was designed to benefit a diverse audience, including library professionals, researchers, educators, students, and the general public, equipping them with essential knowledge to navigate the digital world securely.

Use of Counselling Skills to Promote Reader Participation

The 31st session of "Meet an Expert," themed "Using Counselling Skills to Promote Reader Participation," was successfully held on 31st May 2024, both in person at the NLDSB and virtually via Zoom technology.

The session featured an insightful presentation by Dr. K. R. N. Harshani from the University of Kelaniya, who shared expert knowledge on how counselling techniques can be effectively utilized to enhance reader engagement in libraries. Discussions focused on strategies for fostering a welcoming reading environment, addressing reader needs, and improving communication between librarians and users.

‘Meet an Expert’ 30th Event Marks a Milestone in Celebrating International Women’s Day

The 30th session of the ‘Meet an Expert’ series was successfully conducted on 18th March 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), exploring the theme ‘Is Gender Defined in Literature?’ This event, held in commemoration of International Women’s Day, attracted a substantial audience, both in person and via an online platform.

The programme featured award-winning veteran writer Ms. Sumitra Rahubaddha, who shared profound insights on gender representation in literature, and the evolving role of women in literary works.

Scholarly discourse about ‘නුතන කාව්‍ය මිහිර ව්‍යාදනය’

The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully organized another scholarly discourse under the "Meet an Expert" series on 19th January featuring the theme ‘නුතන කාව්‍ය මිහිර ව්‍යාදනය’. This intellectual forum, conducted via Zoom, provided a valuable platform for scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts to engage in an in-depth discussion on the

selected theme.

The discourse was delivered by Mr. Mahen Suri, a distinguished scholar honoured with the title of Kalasoori, who shared his profound insights and expertise on the subject. His presentation covered significant aspects related to the theme, offering thought-provoking perspectives that enriched the understanding of the attendees.

NLDSB Marks 76th Independence Day with Ceremonies and Exhibitions



The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) commemorated Sri Lanka's 76th Independence Day with a series of special programmes aimed at celebrating the nation's documentary heritage and fostering public awareness.

A formal ceremony was held on 5th February 2024, under the patronage



of Prof. Nanda Dharmaratne, Chairman of NLDSB. The event brought together library officials, staff, and invited guests to reflect on the country's journey to independence and its cultural legacy.

As part of the celebrations, an exhibition showcasing historical and contemporary resources related to Sri Lanka's independence was displayed



at the Reader Service Division of NLDSB from 5 to 16 February 2024. The exhibition featured rare books, archival documents, photographs, and multimedia content highlighting key moments in the nation's struggle for independence.

'Copyright Collapsing in the Face of Digitization': A Discourse Presented by the NLDSB

A special lecture titled "Copyright Disappearing in the Face of Digitization" was successfully held on 25th April at the premises of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), with the event also being conducted via Zoom.

This event coincided with World Book and Copyright Day 2024 and featured insights from Dr. D. M. Karunaratne, former Director General of the National Intellectual Property Office.

A Statistical Workshop for Novice Researchers: NLDSB Empowers Fresher's in Research Methodology

The Research Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully hosted a workshop on Statistics for Novice Researchers from 14th to 15th February 2024, at the NLDSB premises.

Book Donation from China



On 24th January the Chinese prince Ven Sathemantha Thero made a significant donation of books written in both Chinese and Sinhala to the

National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). This generous contribution is aimed at enriching library collections across Sri Lanka, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and fostering literary and academic exchanges between the two nations.

The donation was formally received by the Director General of the NLDSB, Mr. W. Sunil. The initiative marks another milestone in the ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural ties and knowledge-sharing between Sri Lanka and China.

DBIB Compendium of Guidelines Incorporating a Descriptive Bibliographic Framework

The programme on the popularization of the Descriptive Bibliographic Framework, organized by the Bibliography Control Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), was successfully conducted on 5th April.

The resource contribution for this initiative was provided by Mr. W. Sunil, Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Mr. Nimal Hetthiarachechi, Mr. Maithri Jayasundara, Mr. M. S. M. Shiham.

Awareness Workshop on International Standard Numbers



On 6th June 2024, the National Library of Sri Lanka hosted a one-day awareness workshop on International Standard Numbers at the National Library Auditorium. The workshop aimed to provide comprehensive knowledge on International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN), International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN), and International Standard Music Numbers (ISMN), highlighting their significance in the publishing, printing, and academic research sectors.

The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including writers, publishers, printers, researchers, and key stakeholders in the publishing industry, offering

them valuable insights into global bibliographic control, metadata standardization, and the role of unique identifiers in enhancing the discoverability of publications.

The workshop was organized under the leadership and guidance of NLDSE's Chairman Professor Nanda Dharmaratne, Director General Mr. W. Sunil, and Director Mrs. Senani Bandara. Their collective expertise and commitment to strengthening bibliographic systems in Sri Lanka played a crucial role in the success of the programme.

The interactive sessions facilitated discussions on best practices for obtaining and managing International

Standard Numbers, compliance with global cataloguing standards, and the benefits of accurate bibliographic records for publishers and researchers. Participants engaged in practical demonstrations and Q&A sessions, enhancing their understanding of the registration process and its impact on the visibility and credibility of published works.

The workshop was highly appreciated by attendees, who emphasized the need for continued initiatives to educate industry professionals on international bibliographic standards and digital publishing advancements.

Distribution of Books and Conducting Training for School Librarians in Rambewa and Wilachchiya



The National Library of Sri Lanka successfully distributed a large collection of books to 43 school libraries in the Rambewa and Wilachchiya regions as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance access to educational resources and promote reading culture among students. In

addition, on 29th May 2024, a training programme for school librarians from the Rambewa and Wilachchiya educational zones was conducted at the Anuradhapura Zonal Education Office.

The programme aimed to equip

librarians with essential skills in modern library management, cataloging, digital literacy, and reader engagement strategies, ensuring that school libraries function effectively as learning hubs for students and teachers alike.

34th Anniversary of the National Library of Sri Lanka



The 34th anniversary of the National Library of Sri Lanka, themed “One Nation, One National Library,” was commemorated on 30th April at the NLDSB Auditorium.

The celebration featured a keynote address titled “Role of Libraries in Building Sri Lanka’s Research Culture: Then and Now,” delivered by Senior Professor Udith K. Jayasinghe, Vice Chancellor of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Additionally, the National Library of Sri Lanka introduced standardized computer indexing practices across the country’s libraries and issued guidelines based on the MARC 21 descriptive bibliographic framework on this significant occasion.

Dr. Ruwan Gamage delivered a

lecture on “Research Culture and the Link Between Bibliographic Control Processes.” The event was attended by dignitaries from the library sector, well-wishers, and other distinguished guests.

In addition, as part of the 34th anniversary celebrations, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) aired a programme titled “Artificial Intelligence, Digital Technology, and the Evolution of Library Services in Globalization” live on April 24, 2024. The programme featured Chairman Prof. Nanda Dharmaratne, Director Mrs. Padma Bandaranayake, and Assistant Director Mr. Mihira Aravinda of the NLDSB, who participated in this live TV broadcast.



Promoting Iranian Art: Exclusive Workshop and Exhibition at NLDSB



The National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully hosted an exclusive workshop and exhibition on Iranian Art and Calligraphy on 12th

February 2024.

The event showcased traditional Iranian artistic expressions, including intricate calligraphy, miniature paintings, and decorative designs, offering visitors a deeper appreciation of Iran’s rich cultural heritage.

The event was inaugurated by the Iranian Cultural Adviser, who highlighted the importance of cultural exchange in strengthening international artistic collaboration.

Prof. Nanda Dharmaratne, Chairman of NLDSB, warmly welcomed the Iranian delegation, commending their efforts in sharing their artistic traditions with Sri Lanka.

Through this initiative, NLDSB reaffirmed its commitment to promoting cross-cultural understanding and artistic appreciation, fostering deeper ties between Sri Lanka and Iran.



SIPIRIGETA POTHAK

Fostering Prison Libraries in Sri Lanka through donation of books

The project, initiated by the NLDSB in collaboration with the Book Publishers Association, commenced collecting books for prison libraries under the theme 'SIPIRIGETA POTHAK,' launched at the Colombo International Book Fair in 2023.

This project achieved a significant milestone with the delivery of hundreds of books to the Prison Headquarters on 6th March 2024, for distribution among prison libraries across the country. This endeavour emphasizes a commitment to enhancing access to knowledge and promoting rehabilitation through

literacy.

In addition to the book donation, veteran writer Mr. Chulananda Samaranayake delivered a special lecture for the inmates at the Welikada prison. This lecture aimed to inspire and educate through literature, emphasizing the transformative power of books and knowledge. Such initiatives are crucial in fostering personal growth and rehabilitation among incarcerated individuals, demonstrating a commitment to their well-being and development through cultural and educational activities.



An Art and Design training workshop



An Art and Design Training Workshop for school children was held at the Soma Jayakody Model Library on 10th May. The workshop aimed to enhance students' creativity and artistic skills through hands-on training sessions.

Mr. H. G. Rangana from Bandaragama Saralankara Maha Vidyalaya played a key role in the programme by providing valuable resources and guidance for the

design training sessions. The event also saw the participation of officials from the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), who extended their support and contributed to the success of the workshop. The initiative provided young participants with an opportunity to explore various aspects of art and design, encouraging creative expression and fostering a deeper appreciation for visual arts.



Reading camp held at Anuradhapura College of Technology

The Anuradhapura College of Technology successfully hosted a reading camp on 30th May 2024, aimed at fostering a love for reading and enhancing literary engagement among students. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 500 students, making it a significant initiative in promoting literacy and intellectual curiosity.



The principal literary lecture was delivered by renowned literary scholar Mr. Mahinda Chandrasekara, who provided deep insights into the importance of reading, critical thinking, and the role of literature in personal and academic development. His lecture inspired students to cultivate strong reading habits and explore diverse literary genres.

The event was overseen by Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director



of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), who emphasized the National Library's commitment to supporting reading initiatives across educational institutions. The programme was conducted with the valuable support of Ms. Achala Thennakone, Chief Librarian of Anuradhapura College of Technology, who played a key role in organizing and coordinating the camp.

Public Library Automation Programme

The Island-wide survey and public librarian awareness programme on the automation of public libraries in Sri Lanka was successfully organized by the Research Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). This important initiative was conducted on 23rd January via Zoom, bringing together public librarians from across the country to discuss and explore the advancements in library automation.

The programme aimed to assess the current state of library automation in Sri Lanka while enhancing awareness among public librarians about modern digital tools and technologies. Experts in the field provided valuable insights into the benefits of automation, including improved accessibility, efficient cataloguing, and enhanced user services.

Practical Training Course in Research Methodology



The Research Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully conducted an in-depth training course on Research Methodology on 20th February 2024. This comprehensive course was designed to equip library professionals and students pursuing degrees or diplomas in library science with essential skills in both theoretical knowledge and practical application of research methodology. The training covered critical topics such

as research design, data collection methods, literature review techniques, analysis and interpretation of research data, and ethical considerations in conducting research.

Participants were introduced to various research methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, and received hands-on guidance in crafting research proposals, selecting appropriate research tools, and analysing findings.





Workshop on Document Preservation and Bookbinding Held at NLDSB

The first phase of a two-day training workshop on Document Preservation and Bookbinding was successfully conducted on 6th and 7th February 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB).

Organized by the Education and Training Division in collaboration with the Conservation and Preservation

Division of NLDSB, the workshop aimed to equip library professionals, archivists, conservators, and individuals engaged in document preservation with essential skills and techniques for prolonging the lifespan of books and archival materials.

The sessions covered key areas such as paper conservation, handling fragile documents, book repair

techniques, binding methods, and preventive preservation strategies. Participants engaged in hands-on training under the guidance of expert conservators, gaining practical experience in restoration and maintenance techniques to protect valuable collections.



Strengthening School Libraries: Book Donation to 39 Schools in Welikanda

On 14th March 2024, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) generously distributed a substantial collection of valuable books to the libraries of 39 schools in the Welikanda Education Division, which falls under the Dimbulagala Education Zone.

In parallel with the book distribution, a comprehensive training programme was conducted for librarians, teachers, and principals, focusing on effective school library management practices. The session provided valuable insights into library organization, reader engagement strategies, automation and the integration of digital tools in library services.

Ms. Padma Bandaranayake, Director of NLDSB, along with other senior officials, participated in the event, emphasizing the crucial role of well-equipped libraries in fostering a reading culture and supporting students' educational growth.

Comprehensive Training Workshop for the Library Sector

An in-service training workshop on Basic Library Management was conducted from 12th to 16th February 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board. The workshop was designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of library professionals, staff and individuals interested in library science.

It covered essential topics such as cataloguing, classification, collection development, user services, digital resource management, and library automation.

Public Awareness on Non-Communicable Diseases: NLDSB Hosts Expert-Led Workshop

The 29th session of the “Meet an Expert” series, themed “Non-Communicable Diseases as an Epidemic of the 21st Century,” was successfully held on 21st February 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). This informative session aimed to raise public awareness about the growing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer, which have become leading causes of mortality worldwide.

Dr. Wasantha Perera, Head of the Infectious Diseases Unit at Kalubowila Teaching Hospital, provided in-depth insights into the causes, risk factors, and preventive measures for NCDs. The session also emphasized lifestyle modifications, early detection strategies, and the role of public health initiatives

in reducing the impact of these diseases.

This initiative aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – Good Health and Well-being, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. To ensure broader accessibility, the workshop was conducted in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person attendees at NLDSB and virtual participants via Zoom to engage with the expert speaker.



A Statistical workshop for Novice Researchers : NLDSB Empowers fresher's in Research Methodology

The Research Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully hosted a workshop on Statistics for Novice

Researchers from 14th to 15th February 2024, at the NLDSB premises.

Designed specifically for beginner researchers and students, the workshop aimed to provide a solid foundation in statistical methods and data analysis techniques, which are crucial for conducting high-quality research.

Participants were introduced to key topics such as descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, data visualization, and the use of statistical software for data analysis. The workshop was interactive, with hands-on training sessions that allowed participants to practice their newly acquired skills using real-world research data.

Advancing Library Services: One-Day Workshop on Library Digitization

A one-day workshop on the Digitization of library resources and emerging technological trends was successfully held on 11th March 2024 at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). The workshop aimed to equip library professionals, archivists, and information specialists with the latest digitization techniques, digital preservation strategies, and advancements in library technology. Key topics covered included digital resource management, metadata creation, institutional repositories, open-access initiatives, the role of artificial intelligence in modern libraries, challenges in ensuring data security and how the Intellectual Property Act fosters digitization efforts in the country.

Renowned experts in the field, including Prof. Gihan Dias, Dr. Ajantha Athukorala, Mr. Charuka Damunupola, and Ms. Gitanjali Ranawaka, shared their insights on best practices for library digitization, challenges in digital transformation, and the future of information accessibility.

Lecture Focuses on Safe Use of Social Media and the Internet

The 11th session of the Digital Library Lecture Series, themed “Safe Use of Social Media and the Internet,” was successfully conducted on 13th June 2024, at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) premises and was also streamed live via Zoom technology to ensure broader accessibility.

The session featured an insightful presentation by Mr. Charuka Damunupola, Senior Information Engineer from Sri Lanka CERT (Computer Emergency Readiness Team) Institute, who provided expert

guidance on cybersecurity, digital literacy, and responsible online behavior.

Key areas covered in the lecture included:

- Cybersecurity threats and best practices for staying safe online
- Protecting personal data and privacy on social media platforms
- Recognizing and avoiding cybercrimes such as phishing, identity theft, and online scams
- Ethical and responsible internet usage for individuals and organizations

- The role of digital libraries in promoting cybersecurity awareness

The interactive session allowed participants to engage directly with the expert, asking questions about common cybersecurity risks, misinformation, and data protection strategies. The programme was designed to benefit a diverse audience, including library professionals, researchers, educators, students, and the general public, equipping them with essential knowledge to navigate the digital world securely.



Inspiring Young Minds: Reading Camp Held in Medirigiriya

A reading camp was successfully conducted on March 13, 2024, at the Medirigiriya Public Library Auditorium with the participation of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB).

The event aimed to promote a love for reading among school children while enhancing their literacy, critical thinking, and creative skills. More than 100 students from four schools near the Medirigiriya Public Library

participated in the programme. They engaged in interactive reading sessions, storytelling, creative writing exercises, and discussions on the importance of books and libraries in shaping young minds.

Mrs. Padma Bandaranayake, Director of NLDSB, and Mrs. Iromi Wijesundera, Assistant Director of the Extension Services Division, along with a team of NLDSB officials, served as resource persons for the event. They encouraged young readers

to explore the world of knowledge through books and emphasized the role of libraries in lifelong learning. The event successfully fostered a reading culture among students and highlighted NLDSB's continuous efforts in enhancing literacy and knowledge-sharing across the country.