NATNET LANKA

Newsletter of Library and Information Activities in Sri Lanka

VOI : 29, NO : 1 2025, January - June, ISSN 2827-7392(online) ISSN 1391-2658(print)





35th Anniversary Celebration of the National Library of Sri Lanka

The National Library of Sri Lanka, the country's premier reference and research library, celebrated its 35th anniversary on 20th June 2025 at the National Library Auditorium. Established in 1990, the library plays a key role in collecting and disseminating both published and unpublished information, compiling the National Bibliography of Sri Lanka, and developing the nation's library and information services.

The anniversary celebrations were held under the patronage of Hon. Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Dr. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Nandasiri Keembiyahetti, from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna, on the topic "The Advent of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges Facing Library Services."

Following the main ceremony, a seminar on "35 Years of National Library Service" featured lectures by prominent scholars and professionals:

• Professor Emeritus K. A. P. Siddhisena – "The Role of the National Library of Sri Lanka in Research and the Challenges Faced"

• Dr. W. A. Abeysinghe, eminent writer and former Chairman of the NLDSB – "The Role of the National Library of Sri Lanka in Upgrading Sri Lankan Archival Works"

• Senior Professor W. A. Weerasooriya, University of Kelaniya – "Some New Directions in Bibliographic Control for the National Library of Sri Lanka"

• Dr. Pradeepa Wijethunga, Chief Librarian, University of Colombo – "The Future Path, Challenges, and Trends of the National Library of Sri Lanka"

The event was attended by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Director General W. Sunil, board members, librarians, scholars, and distinguished guests from various fields.

The programme highlighted the National Library's achievements over 35 years and discussed strategies to strengthen its services in the era of modern information technologies.







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Sixth Provincial Library Services Board Conference Held at the NLDSB

The Sixth Provincial Library Services Boards Conference was held on 4th July 2025 at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), under the patronage of Dr. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Established under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, Provincial Library Services Boards were created to expand and streamline library services across the country. At present, these boards operate under the North Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa, and Central Provincial Councils.

The conference was attended by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the NLDSB; Director General Mr. W. Sunil; as well as chairmen, directors, and board members of the respective provincial library services boards. Local government commissioners and officials from the relevant provinces were also present. The event served as a platform for discussions on strategies to enhance library services and strengthen coordination between central and provincial library networks.







Koha Library Catalogue Training Workshop

A training workshop on the use of Koha library catalogue for library management was successfully conducted at the National Library and Documentation Services Board on 2, 3, and 4 April 2025.

The workshop was attended by 15 trainees representing library staff from various institutions. The programme focused on enhancing participants' skills in managing library operations using the Koha integrated library management system, aiming to improve efficiency and service delivery among participating libraries.







Professor Punchibandara Sannasgala's 110th Birth Anniversary Commemoration and Book Exhibition at the NLDSB

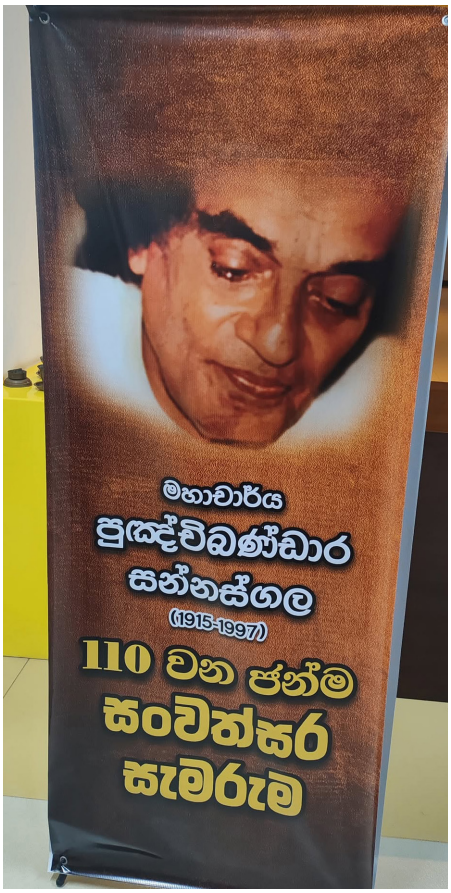
The 110th birth anniversary of Professor Punchibandara Sannasgala renowned scholar and a towering figure in Sinhala language and literature, was commemorated on 30th July 2025 at the auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB).

The event began with brief sermons delivered by Venerable Dr. Vitharandeniye Kassapa Thero, Incumbent of the Birmingham Buddhist Maha Viharaya in the United Kingdom, and Venerable Dr. Thampalawewa Dhammarathana Thero, Head of the Frankfurt Institute of Buddhist Studies in Germany and Vice-President of the United Nations International Vesak Day Council.

A commemorative lecture honoring the life and scholarly legacy of late Professor Sannasgala was delivered by Senior Professor Sandagomi Koparahewa. This was followed by a special commentary presented by Dr. Manori Sannasgala, offering personal and academic reflections on her late father Professor Sannasgala's invaluable contributions.

In parallel with the celebration, the NLDSB organized a book exhibition showcasing a selection of works authored by late Professor Sannasgala from its own collection, providing participants with a rare opportunity to explore his intellectual heritage.

The ceremony was graced by members of the Maha Sangha, Professor Sannasgala's daughters Dr. Manori Sannasgala and Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, family members, friends, university professors, literary scholars, and readers.







Celebration of World Book and Copyright Day



A special seminar was conducted on 23th April 2025 at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) for librarians from university, public, and special libraries in the Western Province, in commemoration of World Book and Copyright Day.

The seminar featured lectures by Dr. D. M. Karunaratne, former Director General of the National Intellectual Property Bureau; veteran writer Mr. Bobby G. Botheju; Mr. Ashoka Weerawardhana, Technology Advisor for Visually Impaired Community of the University of Colombo; and Attorney-at-law Mr. Sidath Gajanayake.











Special Seminar to Mark the Public Library Day

A special seminar was held on 17th July 2025 to mark the Public Library Day. This seminar was organized for Special Grade, Grade I and Grade II Public Libraries. The event brought together key officials of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, including Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman; Mr. W. Sunil, Director General; and Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director.

The seminar provided a platform for librarians to discuss the challenges they have been facing and professional needs. In addition, several special lectures were conducted, offering valuable insights and guidance to enhance the professional development of library staff.





Donation of 80-Volume World Sajjhāya Phonetic Tipiṭaka from Thailand

In a significant cultural and religious milestone, the World Tipitaka Foundation of Thailand on 14th February 2025 presented 80 volumes of the World Sajjhāya Phonetic Tipiṭaka to the National Library of Sri Lanka. The ceremony, held at the National Library, took place with the blessings of the venerable Maha Sangha and was organized by the Royal Thai Embassy in collaboration with the National Library.

The event was attended by a distinguished foreign delegation, led by H.E. Mr. Paitoon Mahapannaporn, Ambassador of Thailand to Sri Lanka. The Ambassadors of Indonesia and Myanmar were also present, highlighting the regional significance of the occasion.

Among the prominent participants were Most Venerable Phra-dham-vajira-yan-sobhon, Ms. Atchara Seriputra, Vice President of the World Tipitaka Foundation of Thailand, senior officials from the Ministry of Buddhist Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. A.M.P.M.B. Atapattu, Secretary of Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Representing the host institution, Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of the National Library, welcomed the donation, noting its importance for researchers and practitioners of Buddhist studies. Members of the Dhamma Society of Sri Lanka, including its President Mr. Suranimala Seneviratne, and senior staff members of the National Library were also in attendance.



The donation of the phonetic Tipiṭaka volumes is expected to enhance access to Buddhist scholarship and further strengthen the longstanding cultural ties between Thailand and Sri Lanka.







NLDSB Explores Cutting-Edge Preservation Technologies to Safeguard Documentary Heritage

The National Library of Sri Lanka 29th July 2025 welcomed a distinguished delegation comprising Mr. Raj Gopal, Director of Sales and Business Development Asia, Preservation Technologies; Mr. Adrian Mendis, Commercial Specialist at the U.S. Embassy to Sri Lanka; and Mr. Selvam Kethees, Executive Director of Regius Holdings, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is home to a rich documentary heritage, including rare materials listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) International Register. However, many of these invaluable collections particularly in depository libraries face severe deterioration due to acidification and other preservation challenges. During the visit, Preservation Technologies of America introduced a range of advanced solutions widely used in world-renowned institutions such as the Library of Congress and leading European libraries. The innovations presented included:

• Mass deacidification systems designed to neutralize acidic content in paper-based materials.

• Specialized sanitation equipment capable of disinfecting books affected by microbes, mold, and pests.

• Encapsulation welding technology to safely preserve and stabilize fragile or brittle documents.

These technologies, new to Sri Lanka, are accompanied by full installation and technical training support to ensure sustainable implementation. The Chairman, Director General, Director, and Head of the Conservation and Preservation Division of the National Library held extensive discussions with the visiting experts to assess the feasibility of acquiring and integrating these advanced preservation tools.

Awareness Programmes on National Library of Sri Lanka in the Northern Province



The National Library of Sri Lanka conducted two awareness programmes for librarians and library staff in the Northern Province on 7th and 8thApril 2025 at the University of Jaffna Library and the Jaffna Public Library, respectively.

The programmes aimed to enhance participants' understanding of key National Library services and strengthen professional capacity in the region. Sessions included guidance on the pricing of unpriced library resources and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in libraries, highlighting the vital role libraries play in community development and lifelong learning.

As part of the initiative, National Library officials also visited several publishers in the Northern Province to explore opportunities for acquiring Northern Tamil publications and expanding digitization projects focused on preserving Northern Tamil literature.

To further promote awareness of SDGs among library users, pull-up banners and SDG-themed bookmarks were donated to both the University of Jaffna Library and the Jaffna Public Library.







Chinese Academy of Arts Delegation Visits National Library to Strengthen Cultural Cooperation

A high level delegation from the Chinese Academy of Arts visited the National Library of Sri Lanka on 5th June 2025, further reinforcing the longstanding cultural ties between the two countries. The visit was coordinated by the Chinese Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka.

The delegation was led by Ms. Liu Hongchang, Director General of the Chinese Academy of Arts, and Mr. Liu Bo, Director of the Academy's Art Training Centre. They were warmly received by Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), along with senior officials.

During discussions, both sides exchanged insights on the rich art and craft traditions of Sri Lanka and China, reflecting on historical ties dating back to the visits of Chinese monks Fa-Hien in the 5th century and Hiuen Tsang in the 7th century. The written records left by these monks were highlighted as significant evidence of centuries-old cultural exchanges.

A key focus of the dialogue was the development of future collaborative programmes, particularly those aimed at promoting cultural understanding and safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Both parties expressed strong interest in enhancing cooperation in research, training, and documentation related to traditional arts and heritage preservation.

The delegation also toured the National Library's special collections, showing keen interest in palm leaf manuscripts, traditional conservation practices, palm leaf artwork, and preserved temple mural paintings. They praised Sri Lanka's dedication to preserving its historical documentary heritage.

The visit concluded with a mutual commitment to deepen cultural collaboration and explore new avenues for joint initiatives in arts, heritage conservation, and cultural exchange.

Agreements Signed Under the Publication Assistance Project of the NLDSB







The Agreements were signed with the authors whose manuscripts were selected as the best manuscripts for 2025 under the National Library Publication Assistance Project on 9th June 2025 at the National Library premises.

Agreements were signed for 3 academic works, 2 short story collections, 8 children's books, and 3 youth literature works in the presence of Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Director General W. Sunil expressed his satisfaction at the active implementation of the Publication Assistance Project after three years, emphasizing the importance of supporting quality manuscripts. The first phase of the project for 2025 has now concluded, with further agreements for selected manuscripts scheduled in the near future. The National Library plans to accept submissions for the 2026 Publication Assistance Project in the last quarter of this year. The signing ceremony was also attended by Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director (Library Promotion, Standardization and Publications); Mr. Malik Dharmawardena, Head of the Publications and Book Development Division; and other officials of the National Library.











Prepress Design:
Grantha sekesme kramawedaya
Launched at the National Library

The National Library and Documentation Services Board launched the book on prepress design, "Grantha Sekesme Kramawedaya", on 16th July 2025 at the National Library Auditorium.

The publication provides a comprehensive overview of composition, page layout, and other processes involved in preparing a manuscript for publication prior to printing, while also addressing key challenges faced by professionals in the book publishing industry.

The launch, held under the patronage of Mr. Prince Senadheera, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, featured two guest lectures. Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda spoke on "Need for Editing in Book Design," while Prof. Rathnasiri Arangala discussed "Aspects that the Modern Creator Should Pay Attention to."

The event attracted a large and diverse audience, including university students, designers, publishers, printers, and other professionals with an interest in book design and publishing.

Two Sri Lankan Documentary Heritages Added to UNESCO World Heritage List







Two significant Sri Lankan documentary heritage collections were inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2025, following nominations led by the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

The newly recognized entries are the Panadura Debate (Panadurawadaya) manuscripts, preserved at Rankoth Viharaya in Panadura, and the trilingual inscription housed at the National Museum of Colombo. Both were formally accepted by UNESCO after a comprehensive submission process coordinated by the National Library.

To commemorate the achievement, a ceremony was held on 16th July at the National Library Auditorium. Mr. Prince Senadheera, Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, presented the official UNESCO certificates to National Library Chairman Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Director General Mr. W. Sunil, and Assistant Director Dr. Udaya Cabral.

Courtesy Call by Head of South Asian Collections at the British Library



Dr. Arani Ilankuberan, Head of South Asian Collections at the British Library, paid a courtesy visit to the National Library of Sri Lanka on 3rd April 2025.

Dr. Ilankuberan leads a team of expert curators and cataloguers responsible for managing the British Library's extensive collections in South Asian languages. She has a strong academic and professional background in South India and Sri Lanka and previously served as Curator of South Indian Collections.

The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen ties between the two national institutions and explore potential avenues for collaboration in areas such as collection development, preservation, cataloguing, and knowledge exchange.





Distribution of Promotional Items on Sustainable Development Goals

As part of a nationwide initiative to educate libraries and readers about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) distributed huge pull up banners and handouts to selected public libraries representing Sri Lanka's nine provinces.

Launching this initiative first set of banners and handouts were provided to the Main Library of University of Jaffna and Public Library in Jaffna in the Northern Province.

Under this initiative, Promotional banners were presented to the Galle Public Library in the presence of the Chairman Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe and officials of the NLDSB.

Inspection of Bus Library at R/ Vijaya Kumaratunga College

On 5th February 2025, Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director of the National Library and Documentation Services Board conducted an inspection tour of the bus library donated to Vijaya Kumaratunga College in Rathnapura. A book donation was who made to the bus library on the same day.



Awareness Seminar on Bibliographic Services for University Staff

An Awareness Seminar on Book Information Services for University Staff was held on 15th July 2025 at the National Library Auditorium. The seminar aimed to introduce the Bibligraphic Services offered by the National Librrary of Sri Lanka including the OPAC: Catalogue and the National Union Catalogue (Online) and to provide participants with insight into emerging trends in the field of bibliographic services.

Nearly 30 library professionals representing university libraries, along with several staff members from special libraries, took part in this programme.

The seminar featured contributions from several distinguished resource persons, including: Professor Ruwan Gamage, National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo, Dr. Priyanwada Wanigasooriya, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Mr. M. N. Ravikumar, Senior Assistant Librarian, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Mr. Maithri Jayasundara, Deputy Director, Bibliographic Control Division, National Library and Documentation Services Board of Sri Lanka.











Book Donation by Late Donu Devidu Mohotti's Family

On 6th January 2025, under the patronage of Dr. Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, the Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, a collection of literary books was donated to the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB). The collection included works preserved by the late Donu Devidu Mohotti, a senior member of Hela Havula and disciple of Cumaratunga Munidasa.

The donation, made by Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Mohotti, daughter of the late Donu Devidu Mohotti, also included the first issue of the Lakmini Pahana newspaper, the first Sinhala newspaper published in Sri Lanka. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the NLDSB.

The main sermon was delivered by the Mahanayake of the Amarapura Dhamrakshitha Maha Nikaya, Chief incumbent of Siri Vajiraramaya in Bambalapitiya, Most Venerable Thrikunamale Ananda Maha Thera. Speeches were also delivered by veteran writer Mr. Buddhadasa Galappatti, Mr. Srinath Ganewatta, President/Nayu of Hela Havula and Dr. Tharaka Mohotti, son of late Donu Devidu Mohotti.

Members of the Mohotti family, members of Hela Havula, and officials of the National Library attended the occasion, marking it as a significant contribution to the preservation of Sri Lanka's literary heritage.





User Awareness Programme for National Library Users



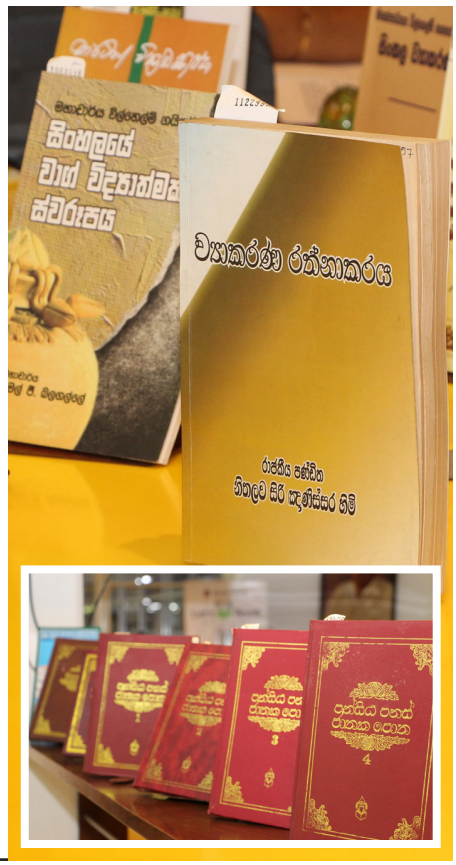
In a series of user awareness programmes at the National Library of Sri Lanka, the second session was held on 21st March at the National Library Auditorium.

This programme focused on "Sinhala Language and Literature," providing users with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Library's specialized collections and research



support services in this field.

A special lecture was delivered by Senior Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa of the Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo. His insightful presentation enriched participants' understanding of Sinhala literary studies and highlighted the value of the National Library's resources for academic and cultural research.





Two-Day Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis and NVIVO

The Library Research Division of the National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) successfully conducted a Two-Day Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis and NVivo on March 27–28, 2025, at the NLDSB premises.

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Renuka Herath of the Department of Information Management, Business School, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). Prof. Herath guided participants through key qualitative analysis techniques and practical applications of NVivo software, enabling them to enhance their research skills and analytical capabilities. The programme provided valuable hands-on experience and was well received by attendees, further strengthening the NLDSB's efforts to support research development in the library and information sector.





Three-Day Workshop for Kurunegala District Public Library Staff

The three-day workshop conducted for the Kurunegala District Public Library staff under the 2030 Sustainable Library Training Project was successfully held on 23, 24, and 25 July 2025. The sessions took place at the Kurunegala Urban Council Public Library Auditorium and the Kurunegala Pradeshiya Sabha Auditorium.

A total of 75 trainees representing public libraries across the Kurunegala District participated in this programme. The workshop aimed to strengthen the professional capacity of public library staff by equipping them with knowledge and skills aligned with sustainable library development goals.





Three-Day Training Workshops for Public Library Staff in Colombo District





A three-day training workshop for Colombo District Public Library staff was held on 26, 27, and 28 June 2025 at the Western Provincial Council Complex. In parallel, a bookbinding training session took place at the National Library and Documentation Services Board premises on 28 June 2025. A total of 82 trainees representing Colombo District public libraries participated in the workshops, which aimed to enhance professional skills and library services.

Creative Art Workshop for Children at Soma Jayakody Library

In addition, an art training programme was organized on 27 June 2025 at the Soma Jayakody Model Library and Training Centre in Bandaragama, with resources provided by Mr. Saman Srikantha, art teacher at Lake House Institute and chief artist for Mihira and Budusarana newspapers. The programme was attended by members of the Soma Jayakody Model Library Readers' Club and some students from Saddhatissa College, Medagama.





Celebration of 77th Independence of Sri Lanka

On 5th of February 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) held a commemorative ceremony to mark Sri Lanka's 77th National Independence Day, coinciding with the inauguration of the Information Sources Exhibition on Sri Lanka's Independence.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the NLDSB. The Independence Day Commemoration Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ratna Sri Wijesinghe, Director General, Directors, and staff of the National Library participating in the ceremony.

The Information Sources Exhibition was held from 5 to 11 February 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the National Library premises, showcasing a range of historical documents and materials related to Sri Lanka's journey to independence.

Literary Entertainment Programme for Young Readers



On 17 March 2025, a literary entertainment programme was organized for the children of the library's reading community at the Soma Jayakody Model Library and Training Centre.

The programme featured resource contributions from Mr. Mihira Aravinda, Assistant Director (Education and Training) of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. This Programme was organized by Mr. Upul Jayantha, Documentation Officer and Trustee of the library.

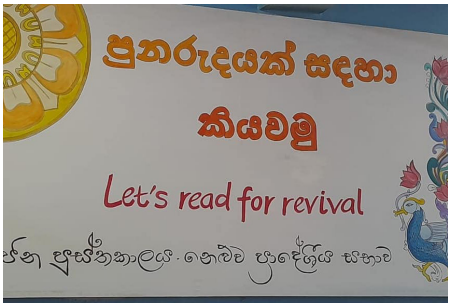


Inter-Library Loan Service Agreement Signed Between Kaduwela Shraddha Mandir and National Library

On 22nd January 2025, the Inter-Library Loan Service Agreement was signed between the Information Collection and Research Library at the Kaduwela Shraddha Mandir and the National Library of Sri Lanka. The agreement was formalized by Venerable Aludeniye Subodhi Thero at the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. W. Sunil, Director General of the National Library, along with Director Mrs. Padma Bandaranaike and Deputy Director Mrs. Anoma Wijesinghe. The agreement aims to enhance access to library resources and strengthen collaboration between the institutions.







Literary Lecture and Reading Camp Organized for School Children in Neluwa

A literary lecture and a reading camp were held on 18th July 2025, in collaboration with the Neluwa Pradeshiya Sabha and the Neluwa Public Library. Nearly two hundred children representing eight schools within the Neluwa Pradeshiya Sabha area participated in the programme.

The special literary lecture was delivered by Dr. Ratna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. The National Library officers served as resource personnel for the reading camp, providing engaging activities that promoted reading habits and literary appreciation among the students. The event was attended by the Chairman of the Neluwa Pradeshiya Sabha along with several members of the Sabha, marking a significant effort to foster a culture of reading and learning within the community.





National Library Officials Inspect Hanguranketha Public Libraries



On 27th June 2025, officials from the National Library and Documentation Services Board conducted inspections of nine public libraries under the Hanguranketha Pradeshiya Sabha.

The visits aimed to evaluate library facilities, services, and resources, and to identify opportunities to strengthen library operations and community engagement in the region.

Literary Lecture and Reading Camp Held for Students in Hanguranketha





On 26th June 2025, a literary lecture and reading camp was organized for students of Matibambiya Maha Vidyalaya in the Hanguranketha Educational Zone.

The event was attended by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director and a group of officials from the NLDSB.

Annual General Meeting of "Friends of the National Library" Held



The 6th Annual General Meeting of the "Friends of the National Library" was held on 21 February 2025 at the National Library Auditorium.

Friends at the National Library Established in 2007 as an affiliated organization of the National Library, which aims to provide ideas for the development of the library and support to implement programmes and to promote its services. The anniversary event was attended by former NLDSB staff, scholars, professionals, and librarians.

A special guest lecture was delivered by Professor Asanga Thilakaratne of the University of Colombo, who highlighted the importance of reading in fostering critical thinking and discussed the challenges of building an informed society in the era of AI technology.





Mobile Library Service in Southern Province



From 20th to 22nd May 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board conducted a mobile library service across the Galle, Matara, and Hambantota districts in the Southern Province.

The initiative aimed to provide guidance and awareness to Librains on professional matters, grading, and the National Reading Month. The programme was attended by a delegation from the National Library, including Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director. Local officials, including Municipal Commissioners, Pradeshiya Sabha Secretaries, District Community Development Officers, and library staff from all Southern Province libraries, actively participated in the initiative. A Book donation programme was also conducted alongside the mobile library service.



Training Workshop for Public Library Staff in Matale District

The three-day Training Workshop for Public Library Staff in Matale District, on the 2030 Sustainable Library Development, was held on 19, 20, and 21 March 2025 at the Nawayalatenna Training Centre in Katugastota in Kandy district.

In parallel, a one-day training session on document preservation and bookbinding was conducted on 19 March 2025. Approximately 60 Public Library Staff officers from Matale District participated in the session, which aimed to enhance professional skills, improve library services, and strengthen preservation practices.



Pirivena Library Day: Reading Camp for Monks

On 3rd June 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organized a reading camp for students monks at the Wimalaratnaramaya Vidyanivasa Maha Pirivena, in Walpola, Ragama in celebration of the Pirivena Library Day.

The literary lecture was delivered by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the NLDSB. The programme was also attended by NLDSB officials, including Director Senani Bandara and Director Padma Bandaranayake, who actively participated in promoting reading and literary activities among the monastic community.







Certificates Awarded to Graduates of Professional Courses at the NLDSB



The National Library and Documentation Services Board conducts several courses for students and professionals who are looking to enter the library profession and other professions.

The certificate presentation ceremony for the academic year 2023/2024 of these courses was held on 20.11.2024 at the main auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Services Board under the patronage of Honorable Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena and Professor Ratnasiri Arangala and the Director General of the NLDSB Mr. W. Sunil.

Certificates were presented to 57 course recipients who successfully completed the Certificate Course in Research Methodology, Certificate Course in Data Analysis and Diploma in Writing.







Three-Day Training Workshop Conducted for Public Library Staff in Hambantota District

A three-day training workshop for Public Library staff in Hambantota District was held on 16, 17, and 18 June 2025 at the Tangalle Pradeshiya Sabha Auditorium.

In parallel, a bookbinding training workshop was conducted on 16 June 2025 at the same venue. A total of 66 trainees representing public libraries across the Hambantota District participated in the programmes, which aimed to enhance professional skills, library management, and practical competencies in book handling.

Training Workshop on File and Document Management



A training workshop on File and Document Management and the Use of Office Systems was conducted on 24th June 2025 at the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) Auditorium.

The programme was organized for officers serving as Management Assistants and Information Assistants at the NLDSB. The session was led by Mr. Nalaka Dissanayake, who provided practical guidance on efficient document handling and office system management to enhance administrative efficiency.



The two Training Workshops were conducted for School Library Staff in Hatton Education Zone on 5 and 6 June 2025 as two separate sessions.

The Tamil medium workshop was held at the Highlands College Auditorium, while the Sinhala medium workshop took place at Gabriel's Girls' College in Hatton. A total of 90 teachers representing school library staff across the Hatton Education Zone participated in the workshops, which aimed to enhance library management skills and strengthen reading and learning programmes in schools.

Training Workshops for School Library Staff in Hatton Education Zone

Two-Day Training Workshop for School Library Staff in Anuradhapura



A two-day training workshop for School Library Staff in Anuradhapura Education Zone was conducted on 29th and 30th May 2025 at the Anuradhapura Education Development Centre.

A total of 52 trainees representing school libraries across the Anuradhapura education zone participated in the workshop, which aimed to enhance professional skills, library management, and promote reading and educational activities among students.

National Library Project to Develop Under-Resource Libraries





From 5th to 7th May 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organized a discussion on developing the Panama Public Library, managed by the Lahugala Pradeshiya Sabha, alongside a reading camp for school children in the Panama area.

The programme was attended by Mrs. Senani Bandara, Director of the National Library; Assistant Director Mrs. Iromi Wijesundara; Extension Officer Mr. G. H. Mangala; and several officers from the NLDSB. Representatives from the Panama Public Library, including the Acting Secretary and librarians, also participated. The initiative aimed to enhance library services, promote reading habits among children, and explore strategies for the sustainable development of the Panama Public Library.

Inspection Tour in Rathnapura Library




On 7 July 2025, Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, conducted an inspection visit to the Ratnapura Public Library, accompanied by a team of NLDSB officials. The visit was aimed at evaluating the library's facilities and services, with particular emphasis on identifying opportunities to enhance library management and improve support for readers in the region.

Reading Camp and Library Inspections Conducted by NLDSB



On 9 July 2025, the Bandarawela Public Library hosted a reading camp for over 100 children from several local schools, organized with the support of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. The programme featured a literary lecture delivered by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

On the same day, Dr. Wijesinghe carried out inspection visits to both the Bandarawela Public Library and the Nuwara Eliya Public Library, accompanied by National Library officials. The visits were aimed at evaluating library facilities and services, as well as identifying opportunities to further strengthen reading initiatives and educational programmes in the region.






Book Donation and Training Programme for Public Librarians in Badulla District

A book donation and training programme for public libraries in the Badulla District was held on 8 July 2025 at the Uva Management Development Institute. The event was organized with the support of the Department of Local Government, Uva Province.

More than fifty public librarians participated in the programme, which was attended by a delegation from the National Library and Documentation Services Board, including its Chairman, Dr. Ratna Sri Wijesinghe. The initiative was aimed at enhancing the professional skills of library staff and further strengthening public library services across the district.





Reading Camp Organized in Padaviya to Promote Library Development



On 14th March 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board organized a reading camp under the auspices of the Padaviya Pradeshiya Sabha.

The event featured a special guest lecture delivered by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. In addition, discussions were held during the programme to explore strategies for the development and improvement of the Padaviya Public Library, aiming to enhance reading culture and library services in the community.

National Library Officials Inspect Libraries

On 25th June 2025, a delegation from the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) including the Chairman and Director, conducted inspections of the Doluwa Public Library and the Peradeniya Faculty of Education Library.

The visit aimed to assess library facilities, services, and resources, and to identify opportunities for improving library operations and supporting educational activities.





"Meet an Expert" Programme Commemorates the 135th Birth Anniversary of Martin Wickramasinghe

The 41st "Meet an Expert" programme was held 22th May 2025 at the National Library Auditorium to mark the 135th birth anniversary of renowned scholar Martin Wickramasinghe. The lecture, delivered by Senior Professor Rathnasiri Arangala of the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, focused on the theme "Bilingualism, Etymology and Wickramasinghe", highlighting the scholar's contributions to literature and linguistic studies.



Dhamma Sermon for Poson Poya at Soma Jayakody Library





On 12 June 2025, a Dhamma sermon was conducted at the Soma Jayakody Model Library and Training Center to celebrate Poson Poya.

The event was organized to provide spiritual guidance and promote Buddhist teachings among library visitors and the local community, commemorating the significance of Poson Poya in Sri Lanka.

Vesak Celebration at the NLDSB



On 16th May 2025, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organized a Dhamma sermon and a Vesak devotional songs programme at the National Library Auditorium to mark the Vesak festival, with the participation of all NLDSB officers.

The sermon was delivered by Venerable Batuwatte Dhammananda Thero of Siri Vajirarama Vihara, Bambalapitiya. The gathering was also addressed by Dr. Ratna Sri Wijesinghe, Chairman of the NLDSB. A brief commentary on the devotional songs was presented by Mr. Sandaruwan Liyanarachchi.

The event brought together spiritual reflection and cultural celebration, fostering a sense of unity and community among staff in observance of the Vesak festival.

