

Implementation of the SLLA Strategic Plan 2016-2022

Project: 'Releasing DIPLIS Exam results through Online Web Portal'

Link to the Strategic Plan: KA5: Improve Education Programmes, Goal 2, 'Improve the quality of DIPLIS programme'

Project developed by '**SLLA/Special Committee on automating DIPLIS Exam Results**'

Convener:

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Assistance: Dr (Ms) Champa N K Alahakoon (Education Officer/SLLA)

Special thanks to Mr Upali Amarasiri (Convener/COMAISP) and members of COMAISP for all the assistance, guidance and encouragements. Heartfelt and profound thanks to the SLLA Strategic Plan (2016/22) for being an inspiration and a guiding light to the SLLA and all LIS professionals in Sri Lanka.

1.0 Rationale of the Project:

Diploma in Library information Science (DIPLIS) programme is the premier education programme conducted by Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA). The programme was commenced in early 1960s immediately after forming the Ceylon Library Association the predecessor of the SLLA. The results of the 3 tier examinations of the DIPLIS programme are released in traditional way as print format and also through the SLLA website. The results sheet is published in SLLA website in PDF format which could be downloaded by anyone disregarding the privacy of candidates. This also requires the students to remember their Index numbers which is not very convenient. To overcome all these issues and also to follow the modern best practices we introduce a method through which results could be access by candidates using their National Identity Card (NIC) numbers. This will also guarantee the confidentiality of the results. Thus this project initiated under the SLLA Strategic Plan 2016-22 to introduce a modern web based way of releasing examination results following the best practices of the present day.

2.0 Objective of the project:

The prime objective of this project is to modernize the way of releasing exam results and provide more privacy and a convenient way to release the DIPLIS results through online using a user friendly system.

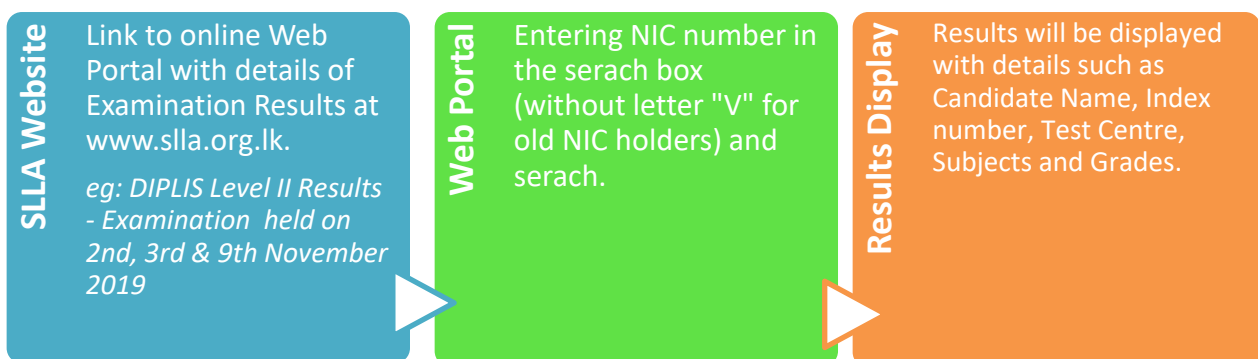
3.0 Project strategy:

1. Preliminary study on required fields of exam results needs to be published on web.
2. Preparing the students list with necessary details/ fields with help of SLLA Education Officer.
3. Developing a system and designing a user friendly web portal to publish the results.
4. Testing the system with dummy data.
5. Creating a mechanism to publish the results through designed system.
6. Provide necessary guidance and training to the SLLA office staff to prepare the results in the required format (Ms-Excel Sheet).
7. Provide awareness to all SLLA officials, with special emphasis on the officials related to the Education programme and DIPLIS Coordinators about the system.
8. Releasing the results through the web based online system.

4.0 Technical aspects of the project:

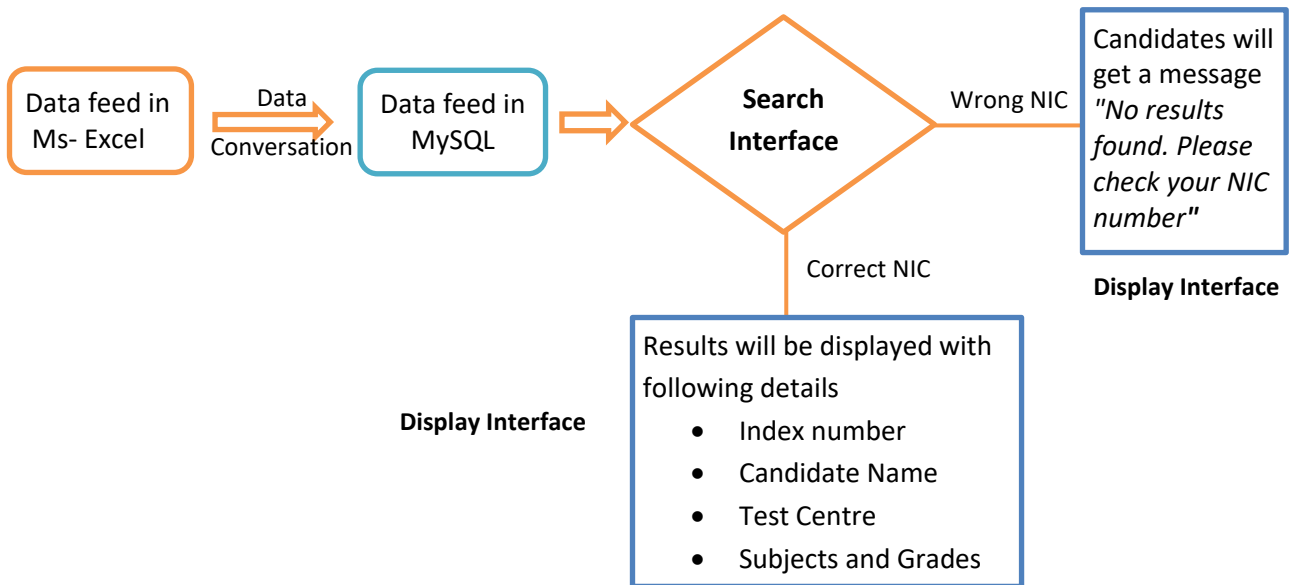
With the identified fields and details which are needed to be displayed in the web based results sheet, Mr. M. Norman Ravikumar (Convener) has developed a database using MySQL. In addition a user friendly web portal is designed using Java Scripts, PHP and HTML to search and display the results of the candidates using their NIC number.

Since the SLLA website is hosted in the Cpanel, it was decided to host the results database on the same. Once the results are ready to release, a link with description will be given in the SLLA website (www.slla.org.lk) to access the online web portal. In the web portal candidates can search their results by entering their NIC number in the given search box. Following schematic diagram explains the work flow of this system.



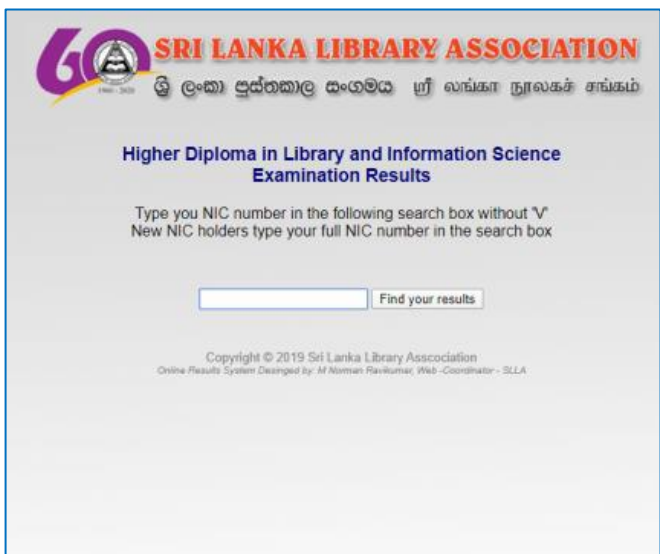
4.1 Web based online system programme flow chart

Following flow chart illustrates the developed programme.

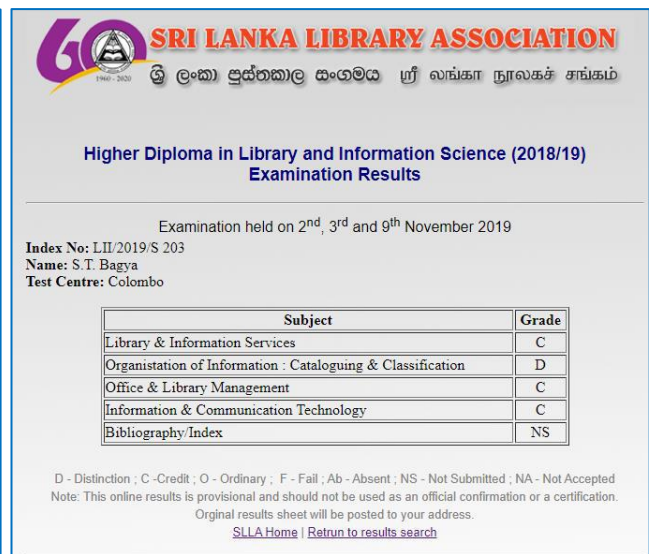


4.2 Design of web interfaces

Two interfaces are designed with necessary information. One to search results by entering the NIC number and another to display results.



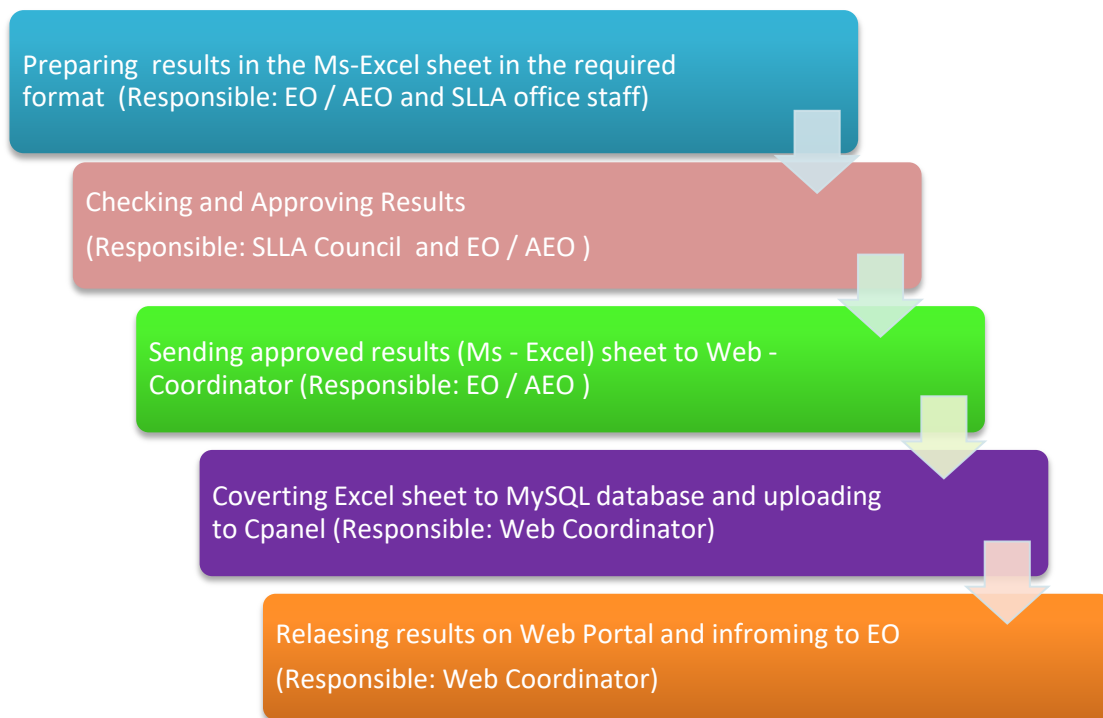
Interface for Search



Interface for Display

5.0 Mechanism to release the results through web based online system:

Following mechanism should be adopted to release the exam results through the designed system.



*** EO – Education Officer, AEO – Assistant Education Officer*

6.0 System Implementation

The system is tested with dummy data and errors found are rectified. Through the discussions with the Education Officer (EO), advisor and others improvements and amendments have been introduced on the interfaces designed for the system according to the requirement of DIPLIS programme. The format for entering candidates' results has been introduced in consultation with the EO and obtained council approval for the web interfaces to display the results. The SLLA office staff have been trained to prepare the Excel sheet as per the system requirements.

With the approval of the SLLA Council and the COMAISP the results of DIPLIS Level II examination held on November, 2019 have been successfully released through the newly developed system on 06th March, 2020. It was no doubt a historic achievement.

Acknowledgement:

In addition to those mentioned initially my heartfelt gratitude to all Council members of SLLA (2019/20) especially President Dr (Ms) N D Wijayasundara, President- Elect Dr. Ruwan Gamage, General Secretary Mrs. Lilamani Amerasekera, Education Officer Dr (Ms) Champa N K Alahakoon, Member of Education Committee and SLLA office staff for their tremendous support to implement the web based online results releasing system successfully.

Prepared by:

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