

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1986-87

March 1987

Professional Centre 275/75 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7

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1. Introduction

Traditionally the annual reports of the SLLA have covered the activities between two Annual General Meetings, and so, the present report does not seek to make a deviation from this tradition for obviously valid reasons. However, appositely, the point of departure for the present report is the last AGM itself and the seminar on 'Union Catalogues' that preceded the AGM, lest the record would not be complete.

However, no attempt is made here to recount what transpired at the AGM because the relevant details are included in the minutes which have been already circulated. As for the seminar on Union Catalogues, we were privileged to have, as our Chief Guest, Mr. S. Athukorale, Chairman of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, who inaugurated the seminar. Mrs. Chitra Karunanayake, Mr. Harrison Perera and Mr. T.D.D. Gunasekera were the main speakers whose impressive contributions paved the way for a lively discussion.

2. Membership

The total membership of the Association as at the beginning of March 1987 stood at 118 of whom 10 were new members enrolled during the period under review.

3. Office-Bearers

The undermentioned office-bearers elected at the last AGM functioned throughout the period under review:-

President	..	Mr. W.B. Dorakumbure
Vice-Presidents	..	Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe
	..	Mr. Upali Amarasiri
General Secretary	..	Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
Assistant Secretary	..	Mrs. A.C.H. de Silva
Education Officer	..	Mr. N.U. Yapa
Treasurer	..	Mr. M.F. Hamid
Publication Officer	..	Miss Swinitha Nawana
Asst. Education Officer	..	Mr. P. Vidanapathirana
Hony. Librarian	..	Mrs. Swarna Jayatilleke

3.1 Council

In addition to these office-bearers, the undermentioned members comprised the Council:-

Mr. G.A.P.J. Silva	(Representing Special Libraries)
Mr. M.D.H. Jayawardhana	(Representing Public Libraries)
Mrs. S.R. Korale	(Representing Academic and University Libraries)
Mrs. N.A.D.A. Diyasena	(Representing Government Departmental Libraries)

Mrs. K.S. Pieris (Representing the Western Region)
 Mrs. D. Ratnayake (Representing the Central Region)
 Mr. K. Manickavasagar (Representing the Northern Region)

3.2 Executive Committee

All office-bearers along with Mrs. N.A.D.A. Diyasena and Mrs. D. Ratnayake comprised the Executive Committee.

During the period under review, 8 meetings of the Council and 4 meetings of the Executive Committee were held. No meeting was abandoned for want of a quorum.

The President, Mr. Dorakumbure was out of the island on a private visit for about 2½ months, during the period September-November 1986. Miss Nethsinghe, Vice-President acted for the President during his absence from the island.

3.3 Other Committees

It has been traditional for the Association to appoint certain regular committees to facilitate its activities. A list of such committees and the members appointed to them are enumerated below:-

Education Committee

Mr. N.U. Yapa (Chairman)
 Mr. P. Vidanapathirana (Secretary)
 Mr. J.V. Fernando
 Mrs. N. Amarasuriya
 Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe
 Mrs. L. Wanasundera
 Mr. Upali Amarasiri
 Mr. Harrison Perera
 Dr. E.W. Marasinghe

Associateship Committee

Mr. W.B. Dorakumbure
 Mr. N.U. Yapa
 Mr. Upali Amarasiri
 Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe
 Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe

Committee on Professional Matters

Mr. W.B. Dorakumbure
 Mr. Upali Amarasiri
 Mrs. I. Corea
 Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe
 Mrs. L. Wanasundera

Editorial Committee

Miss S.N. Nawana
 Mr. Harrison Perera
 Mrs. N. Wanasundera
 Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
 Mr. L.R. Amarakoon

Finance Committee

Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe
 Mr. M.F. Hamid
 Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe

4. Professional Activities

In keeping with the assurance given by the President in his address to the last AGM, greater emphasis was given to professional activities. A committee consisting of Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe (Chairperson),

Mrs. N.A.D.A. Diyasena and the General Secretary drew up a programme of work which was accepted by the Council. Emanating from this programme several activities were initiated during the period under review.

4.1 Associateships

During the period under review, the Council decided to award Associateships to Mrs. V.N. Dharmaratne, Mrs. T. Fernando, Mrs. M.D.N.D. Jayasinghe, Mrs. G.A. Nanayakkara, Mrs. K.K.D.N.C. Gunatunga, Mrs. T.K. Wijesuriya, Mrs. S.H. Geethananda and Mrs. R.M. Nagahawatte. The formal awards will be made at the forthcoming annual sessions.

Arrangements been made to insert a complete list of Associates in the Ferguson's Directory.

4.2 Fellowships Scheme

Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe (Chairperson), Mr. N.U. Yapa, Mrs. S.R. Korale and Mrs. K.S. Pieris comprised a committee which formulated a scheme for the award of Fellowships of the Association. This scheme will be put into operation in due course with suitable modifications where necessary.

4.3 Honorary Fellowships

One of the most significant steps taken by the Council recently came in the form of a unanimous decision to confer Honorary Fellowships on four of Sri Lanka's senior and distinguished librarians in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the profession of librarianship in this country. Accordingly Mr. H.A.I. Goonetilake, Mr. T.G. Piyadasa, Mrs. Ishawari Corea and Mrs. Violet de Souza will be honoured at the forthcoming AGM. The decision of the Council in this connection may be recorded as an indelible land mark in the history of the SLLA.

4.4 Research Committee

The Council gave due consideration to the need to foster research in library science and accordingly set up a Research Committee consisting of Mrs. S.R. Korale (Chairperson), Miss C.L.M. Nethsinghe, Mr. Upali Amarasiri, Mrs. K.S. Pieris and Mrs. L. Wanasundera. Its terms of reference were also spelled out. The general membership is free to make suggestions or proposals for consideration by this committee. In order to ensure the viability of this decision, the Council has also taken steps to create a Research Fund. Due to obvious reasons, it is too premature to report any significant progress in this regard, but hopefully, it would not be long before tangible results are achieved.

4.5 Seminars/Workshops

This was another important aspect that received the Council's attention during the past year. A series of workshops/seminars designed to upgrade the professional knowledge of working librarians was held. Two workshops - one on "AACR 2" and the second on "Audio-Visual Librarianship" marked a deviation from the traditional pattern in that the participants were required to register on payment of a nominal fee. The large number of participants at these two workshops is a clear indication of their success. The seminar on "Public Libraries" scheduled to take place on the

day of the AGM is another outcome of the Council's attempt to give pride of place to professional activities. In addition, the SLLA organized a public lecture jointly with the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in November 1986. This lecture titled "Scientific Information for Sri Lanka: the Online Approach" was delivered by Dr. Rohan Samarajiva of the Arthur Clerke Communication Centre. A further public lecture on "Role of Libraries in Communication Sciences" delivered by Prof. Tomo Martelance from the University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, was organized by the SLLA which took place on 4th December 1986.

5.6 Duty Leave for Annual Sessions

For the first time in its history, the SLLA has been listed in the Establishment Code as a professional body entitled to the privilege of duty leave for its members to attend the annual sessions, vide Public Administration Circular No. 340 of 26th August 1986. The forthcoming annual sessions are being held on a working day in view of this privilege.

5. SLLA Secretariat

The SLLA secretariat functioned with the full complement of clerical and other staff. In place of the Accounts Clerk who was interdicted just prior to the last AGM, a replacement was recruited on casual basis. The disciplinary inquiry initiated against the interdicted person has still not been concluded due to reasons beyond our control. By a decision of the Executive Committee, the casual Office Aide was made permanent with effect from 1st March 1987.

5.1 Wellawatte Office

At the end of October 1986, we vacated the premises at No. 2, IBC Road, Wellawatte, where the SLLA library was housed and also where some classes were held for a couple of years. The library was shifted to the OPA building and is now located in a room where the OPA library is also housed. It has now become our responsibility to maintain the OPA library as well. More information about the library is given elsewhere in this report.

6. Education

Mr. N.U.Yapa, the Education Officer was assisted by Mr. P. Vidanapathirana as Assistant Education Officer during the period under review. However, Mr. J.V. Fernando attended to the Education Officer's duties during the latter's absence from the country from 7th to 15th November 1986. As usual, the Education Committee chaired by Mr. N.U. Yapa functioned during the past year and met four times.

6.1 Professional Courses

The three-level professional Course in Library and Information Science was conducted at the four teaching centres. The student population as in February 1987 of each course is given below:-

Course	Colombo English	Colombo Sinhala	Galle Sinhala	Jaffna Tamil	Kandy Sinhala
First	20	59	24	-	27
Inter- mediate	10	45	-	18	25
Final	-	45	-	-	-

Classes were held at the Dharmaraja Junior College (Kandy), the Polytechnical Institute (Galle) and the Polytechnical Institute (Jaffna). Until the Wellawatte Office was vacated at the end of October 1986, the Final, Intermediate and First Year (English) classes were held there. After shifting the office these classes were held at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies and at the OPA Centre. Arrangements made to conduct the classes at the Dehiwala Polytechnical Institute had to be cancelled as the students found the venue inconvenient.

The Association thanks the Officers in charge of these institutions for their cooperation towards conducting the classes.

The following persons served as Centre Co-ordinators:-

Colombo	- Mr. Y.H. de Silva
Kandy	- Mrs. D. Ratnayake
Galle	- Mr. E.K. Gunaratne
Jaffna	- Mr. K. Mankckavasagar

6.2 Examinations

During the period under review six examinations were held. Arrangements are being made to hold the Final and Intermediate Examinations in March 1987.

First Examination	- June '86 and November '86
Intermediate Examination	- October '86 and March '86
Final Examination	- October '86 and March '86

Examination statistics are given below:-

First	Inter- media- te	Final	Sinhala			English			Tamil		
			Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%
June '86			111	47	42	4	2	50	6	3	50
Nov. '86			180	57	32	47	17	36	8	3	37
	March '86		86	32	37	-	-		4	3	75
	Oct. '86		67	24	36	12	2	17	1	1	100
		March '86	42	12	28	13	4	31	15	4	27
		Oct. '86									

The Examination Board consisted of Mr. N.U. Yapa, Mr. J.V. Fernando and Mrs. N. Amarasuriya.

6.3 Course on 'Computers in Libraries'

The course on 'Computers in Libraries' which was started in April 1984 was repeated from July to October 1986 for another batch of participants. Since 1984 about 100 librarians had followed the course.

6.4 Block Memorial Scholarship

The following students received the Block Memorial Scholarships in 1986 for their performance at the November 1986 First Examination:

Sinhala medium	-	Miss K.G.K. de Silva (6095)
Tamil medium	-	Miss S. Vimalarany (6181)
English medium	-	Mrs. C.L. de Silva (6065)

6.5 Awards for Best Student Reports

On the recommendation of the Education Committee it was decided to award a gift voucher for Rs. 150/- to the following students who submitted the best reports on the in-service training they had received as part requirement of the First Year Course:

Colombo (English)	-	Mrs. C.L. de Silva (6065)
Colombo (Sinhala)	-	Miss A.N. Suriyaarachchi (6052)
Galle (Sinhala)	-	Rev. Sinipelle Tilakawanse (6093)

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Report of the Council for the year 1989/90

INTRODUCTION

Ceylon Library Association was established by a few dedicated librarians three decades ago (a) to promote the establishment, extension and improvement of library services in Sri Lanka (b) to unite all those engaged in or interested in library work by holding conferences and meetings for the discussion of bibliographical questions and matters affecting libraries (c) to train librarians and to conduct professional examinations in librarianship and to issue certificates of proficiency. Sri Lanka Library Association was incorporated by law No. 20 of 1974

We are proud that because of the efforts of the SLLA Librarians are being considered as professionals. The examinations conducted by the Association have been recognised as recruitment qualifications for employment in Libraries, Documentation Centres and Information Centres. Consequent to the representation made by the Association and also the Trade Unions of Librarians once again the librarians with our professional qualification have been granted higher salaries, but in government service the salary a librarian can draw is below that of other professionals.

Our Association has been the pioneer in library education and continued its programme of training and education for more than twenty eight years. The services in libraries have been greatly improved because of the qualified personnel produced by our association. More than 100 Librarians and Information specialists manning the information centres in Sri Lanka, have been successful in the Final Examination in Librarianship, Documentation and Information science.

SLLA has been in the vanguard in promoting the establishment of the National Library in Sri Lanka. It played an important role at an International Conference organized by UNESCO in December 1967. Thirteen experts in Library Planning from Asian countries including Sri Lanka participated. One of the several resolutions that were adopted at the conference: that steps be taken to ensure the enactment of necessary legislation to establish a central authority responsible for the general development of library services in the country. Consequently the Ceylon National Library Services Board Act No. 17 of 1970 was enacted. We are proud that the National Library of Sri Lanka would be formally opened in April 1990 under the able leadership of the Chairperson Mrs Ishwari Corea, who is a Honorary Fellow of our Association.

In 1990, the beginning of the last decade of the twentieth century and the fourth decade of the Sri Lanka Library Association we should re-dedicate ourselves to the development of the Library and the information profession and the Association. We should endeavour to project our image by playing a positive role in the development of Sri Lanka. We should resolve to go to the User, Make information available to the people. We should make Libraries Cultural Centres, Janasaviya could be achieved through Nana Saviya. We should pay special attention to computerising our libraries and gear ourselves to new technology by year 2000.

ANNUAL SESSION 1989

The Annual Session 1989 was held at the Ceylon Institute of Scientific & Industrial Research Auditorium. The Chief Guest was Hon A C S Hamid, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Ms Juliet Wragge-Morley delivered the keynote Address on "Current Trends in Information Technology"

The following papers were presented:

- Ms L Wanasundera - Gender Dimensions of Women in Development
Ms I Mudannayake - Information needs and information practices of agricultural scientists in Sri Lanka
Ms S M Tennekoon - Mechanism of Technology Transfer to Industry
Ms S M Wijewansa - SLSLINE Sri Lanka Standards on line
Ms L M Wirasinghe - Role of British Council Library in Kandy
Ms A M de Alwis - Colombo Public Library's role in the community
Mr L R Amarakone - Resources in Health Science Libraries
Ms S Kodagoda - Information needs of educational decision makers & Education documentation

We thank Ms S Kodagoda for representing the Association on a Behind the News Programme on SLBC before the annual session.

MEMBERSHIP

During the period under review 11 professionally qualified Librarians and Information specialists were enrolled as members of the Association. The total membership now stands at 187 of these 135 are associates. This year 02 became life members of the Association. The number of life members is now 35.

The life membership fee was increased to Rs.1000/- by the Council, with effect from June 1989.

Associates

The following were enrolled as Associate Members of the SLA in 1989/90. The Certificates of Associateship will be awarded at the 30th Annual Sessions

1. Gallaba Mudiyansele Puncheda Gallaba
2. Jayatunga Arachchige Amaraweera
3. Santhine Antonita Primrose Amaratunge
4. Anjali Tilotama Deva Adithiya De Silva
5. Rajapakse Mudiyansele Jayatilake Bandara
6. Dorothy Anula Ilangakoon
7. Neliya Swinitha Fernando
8. Mohamed Buhary Mohamed Fairoze
9. Sarojini Chitra Swarnamala Meewewa
10. Sumithra Thalakada
11. Edirisinghe Arachchige Chandra Nandana Edirisinghe
12. Rajapaksha Wasala Mudyanselage Wasantha Kumari Illangatileke
13. Madampage Dayananda De Silva
14. Kainappuge Sirimathie Kulathilake
15. Sumitrai Naguleswaran

Membership of International and National Organisations

SLLA continues to be a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and the organisation of Professional Associations (OPA)

The Council nominated Ms C L M Nethsingha, President SLLA to the COMLA Regional Council from SLLA.

Mrs Ishwari Corea represented SLLA at the Annual Session of IFLA and COMLA held in 1989.

Ms C L M Nethsingha and Mr Jayasiri Lankage represented the SLLA at the OPA Forum.

Mr Anton D Nallathamby represented Librarianship Profession at the OPA Executive Council.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the SLLA include: to promote the establishment, extension and improvement of the Library Services in Sri Lanka and to set up professional services in Sri Lanka and to set up professional standards, unite all those engaged in or interested in Library work through seminars lectures for discussion of matters affecting libraries and Information Centres.

Glossary of Library Science Terms

The Association had been in the forefront in the preparation of Glossary of library Science terms in Sinhala and Tamil. We have been in communication with the Official Languages Department for several years to prepare a glossary of library science terms and also contributed a grant of Rs.5000/- for the publishing of same. The following members of the Association served on the Advisory Board to prepare the Glossary:

Mr W B Dorakumbura, late Mr T G Piyadasa, Mr Jayasiri Lankage, Mr N U Yapa, Mr M S Upali Amarasiri

The Official Languages Department issued the Glossary of Library Science Terms (English-Sinhala & Sinhala-English) in 1989. The Department has donated 300 copies to us. These copies could be purchased at SLLA office.

Seminars etc.

The Association had planned to hold a Seminar on National Libraries, Seminar on Teaching Methodology, Seminar on Marketing of Information and also Library week celebrations. The organisation of the last seminar and the Library week celebrations had to be suspended because of the unsettled conditions prevailing in the country in 1989.

Seminar on Teaching Methodology

SLLA has been the pioneer of Teaching Librarianship for the last twenty eight years. At the last Annual General Meeting a resolution was adopted expressing the need to organize seminars for the Lecturers of the Association on Teaching Methodology. Are we Teaching? A Seminar on Teaching Methodology was held on Saturday, March 24, 1990 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. There were 31 participants. The lectures were delivered by

- (a) Dr Premadasa Udugama
Consultant, Marga Institute

- (b) Dr Lal Perera
University of Colombo
- (c) Mr David Woolger
Pasdunrata College of Education
- (d) Mrs Daya Ratnayake
Public Library, Kandy

Sri Lanka Library Services Board gave financial assistance towards the seminar. Mr Harrison Perera our Education officer coordinated the programme.

Seminar on National Libraries

At the AGM held in 1989, the members expressed disappointment at the non-establishment of the National Library even though the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board was established in 1987 and the activities of the Board had been adversely affected by the absence of the Chairman and members of the Board. The members emphasized that the Association should make representations to constitute the Board and expedite the opening of the National Library and create an awareness among the people and the decision makers on the need of the national library to provide leadership in the field of librarianship.

The Association planned a seminar on National Libraries for end of July 1989. The following were to lecture at the Seminar:

- Dr A J Gunawardena - Cultural Heritage and National Library
- Prof. J B Dissanayake - Sinhala Literature and National Library
- Mr Victor Gunewardane - Social scientist and research aspects of the National Library
- Mr M U S Amarasiri - National Library and its functions

Mr W J M Lokubandara, Minister of Education, Cultural Affairs and Information had accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest. The seminar had to be postponed because of the unsettled condition which prevailed in that month. Mr P Vidanapathirane was the coordinator of the seminar.

Study Tour

SLLA organised its first Study Tour to the Coconut Research Institute. The 34 members who participated were able to see the functioning of the Institute and also the Coconut Information Centre and the contribution made by the Centre in the development of Coconut Information in Asia. The tour was well organised and the members were especially interested in the Computer data bases and Printing and Binding equipment at the Centre. We thank Mr M J C Perera, Project leader, Coconut Information Centre, CRI for organising the instructive programme and also the Director for hosting members for lunch. Two of our members (Mr M F Hamid and Mr Harrison Perera) allowed us to use their vehicles. We thank Mr Harrison Perera for hosting our members to Tea on that day- October 27, 1989.

Lecture

Through courtesy of the British Council some of our members were able to attend the lecture on "Current Trends on IT" by Sharon Dobbins on January 24, 1990

CHAIRPERSON SLNLSB

The Association congratulates Mrs Ishwari Corea on her appointment as Chairperson, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board. A founder member of our Association and a Past President, Mrs Corea was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Association in 1987. The Council hosted Mrs Corea to Tea on November 12, 1989.

We wish to thank the President of Sri Lanka for honoring our profession in making this appointment.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

For the first time, the Research Committee under the Chairmanship of Ms S Kodagoda was active this year. The Committee undertook a Research Project on a School Library selecting Visakha Vidyalaya library for the study. Two questionnaires were circulated (a) To students (b) To teachers. The results will be presented at the 1990 annual sessions.

Mrs M Edussuriya of Visakha Vidyalaya assisted in this project.

Salaries

Subsequent to the Revision of the salaries of government librarians, we received several complaints that the librarians on higher grades did not receive any benefit, SLLA has requested the Salaries & Cadre Committee to have a Unified Service for Government Librarians and recommended the following qualifications for various Grades:

Grade III	- 1st Examination
Grade II	- Intermediate Examination
Grade I	- Final Examination
Supra grade	- Associate

We have also requested a scale with Rs.72000 as the initial salary for the Supra grade, so that librarians can rise to the maximum salary that other professionals can receive.

We thank Sri Lanka National Library Services Board, for the efforts made by the Board in obtaining revised salaries for librarians.

Library Services Bureau

The following projects were completed:

(a) Sri Lanka Ports Authority

- Task 1 Creation of Data Base for Bibliographic Information Retrieval Circulation Control and order information
- Task 2 Training workshop to introduce and familiarise the operations of the data base for the system users of SLPA
- Task 3 Compilation of short user manual describing the data base concepts and the significant operations of the data base.

(b) Water Supply & Drainage Board

Designing "WASSDOC" directory data base

SLLA has also been asked to prepare a Project report for funding the 2nd phase of the Centre for Industrial Technology Information Service (CITIS). We look forward to further consultancies in the future.

Publications

Two issues of the SLLA Newsletter were issued this year, edited by Mr L R Amarakoon. Sri Lanka Library Review New Series Vol.5(1/2) is expected to be released at the Annual Sessions. SLLA has been registered as a publisher with the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board in the category of Non Governmental Institutional Publishers. The ISBN suffix for our publications is 9075

Library

The library continues to be housed in the OPA Centre Library. The students following courses conducted by the SLLA use our Information resources. During the year under review Asia Foundation and British Council donated books to augment the stock of SLLA Library. Asia Foundation donated a set of the New Encyclopaedia Britannica and other reference books. British Council gave us an ODA grant of £ 500 to purchase new books on Librarianship and Information science. We are awaiting receipt of these books. The total number of books as Librarianship is now 1718. For a long time the SLLA library had no proper catalogue. Work is now in ~~progress~~ to have an up to date catalogue. We thank the librarians who gave us blank catalogue cards. About 60 duplicate and old titles were withdrawn from the library. These publications have been distributed to public libraries at Kandy, Galle and Jaffna Centres for the use of the students following the SLLA education programmes at these centres.

Duplicate copies of bibliographies submitted for the Intermediate Exam were donated to the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board.

The Association continues to manage the collection (1009 titles) of the OPA

Inadequate space and lack of competent assistance are some of the factors that should be taken into consideration in future plans for the library.