

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Golden Jubilee International Conference

1960-2010



SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka Library Association



Golden Jubilee International Conference



Ceylon Continental Hotel, Colombo.

06-08 October 2010

Libraries: Access to Information and Empowering People

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Message from
Hon. D.M. Jayarathne,
 Prime Minister - Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Library Association celebrates its golden jubilee this year. This is an achievement that the Association can be proud of. The nation itself shares in its sense of pride and success.

In its fifty years of existence, the Sri Lanka Library Association has been steadily growing and increasing its influence and usefulness to the country. It educates and trains librarians; moves with the times and introduces new trends to libraries; innovates with new technologies and keeps abreast of ever changing ideals of librarianship and information services. In my opinion, the greatest benefit the SLLA has bestowed on the country is its stress, through its membership, on recreational reading, nurturing the reading habit and making accessible electronic carriers of information and knowledge. This the Association has achieved through public and school libraries scattered all over the country – from the major towns to the far distant villages.

The Sri Lanka Library Association, with the libraries it oversees and the librarians it educates, trains and re-trains, is a major component of the educational, economic and social fabric of the country. Thus its development is of great concern to the country. The government must ensure that libraries are sufficiently well stocked, especially school and university libraries, not only with books, journals and other paper items but with computers and electronic material. Adults too should have access to libraries, hence the importance of all local bodies of cities ensuring the existence and adequate stocking of public libraries.

With the influx of television and different modes of entertainment, personal computers and Internet, people, especially children have been moving away from reading. This trend should be stemmed by equipping existing libraries with both electronic and paper material, and opening up more libraries, especially in the East and North of the country, now being rebuilt after three decades of devastation.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Sri Lanka Library Association on its fiftieth anniversary and wish it well for the future which we hope will go well beyond the century mark.

D M Jayaratne

Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Message from the
Hon. S.B. Dissanayake
 Minister of Higher Education

The main thrust of my ministry - the Ministry of Higher Education - since I assumed duties as its Minister has been the improvement of existing universities and planning to set up private fee levying universities and institutions of higher education.

All these need libraries. A university or institution of higher or further learning minus a library or one with an inadequate collection is akin to a sprinter with no foot or badly injured leg. Knowledge and information and easy methods of retrieving them are essential in seats of higher education. This is where a library steps in, managed by trained librarians. They supplement and promote research and study by graduands, graduates and post graduates.

It is my pleasure and privilege as Minister of Higher Education to congratulate the Sri Lanka Library Association for reaching the mature age of fifty years. Libraries, and librarians and information scientists educated and trained by the Sri Lanka Library Association give immense assistance at all levels, particularly to education in universities and seats of higher learning. My hope is that libraries will become even more integral components of university campuses. I am of the opinion that libraries, librarians and the association they belong to should be assisted by both the public and private sectors to improve and thus render more enhanced service.

It has to be categorically stated, that the Sri Lanka Library Association was the first in the field of educating and training would-be librarians. The SLLA has the further distinction of having as one of its aims the ensuring of the welfare of its members. Additionally, the SLLA promotes codes of ethics for librarians and standards for libraries.

I therefore unreservedly wish this association that does so much to maintain high standards of information science and librarianship, conforming to those in developed countries as far as possible, a very bright future with many more years of service to librarianship in particular and the nation in general.

S.B. Dissanayake
 Minister of Higher Education



Message from the
Hon. W.D.J. Seneviratne
 Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs,

As the Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs, I am very much pleased to write a few complementary words at this occasion where Sri Lanka Library Association celebrates its Golden Jubilee. You have made a tremendous contribution to improve the habit of reading of our people during the past five decades.

Major responsibility as well as the challenge of librarians is to provide books to quench the thirst for knowledge of various readers. It seems that during the past years the readers have been showing a tendency for reading books on exploration, positive thinking, ghost stories, and detective stories.

Libraries are maintained by local government institutions whilst certain libraries are maintained under government departments. My ministry, whilst providing suitable human resources for the libraries, takes action to improve the productivity and efficiency of these human resources.

Knowledge and communication technology holds a key position in the present society. Sri Lanka library Association performs a commendable service to maintain libraries with a higher standard based on library science and also to train the librarians whilst ensuring their welfare.

I wish success with all your future endeavors.

W.D.J. Seneviratne,
 Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs



Message from
Dr (Ms) Ellen Tise,
 President - International Federation of Library Associations and
 Institutions (IFLA)

Esteemed colleagues,

The roles of libraries and librarians in providing access to knowledge are important and variable. Areas of responsibility, abilities to provide such access and status differ, depending on our location in the world, but together we are part of the culture bearers in our countries and serve as critical knowledge access points.

By storing resources of knowledge we preserve knowledge. Technology enables us to make this knowledge available to this and future generations. By playing a critical role in such developments, libraries and librarians become central to the creation and sustainability of the information society. We spread information and we make it easily accessible, thus contributing to both societal and individual development.

Library Associations are a critical player in driving access to knowledge and empowering people, by representing their members in the profession and by advocating on the importance of the role of librarians and libraries in the knowledge society of today. It is this role that the Sri Lanka Library Association has played for 50 years now. It is this role that articulates squarely with the theme of this SLLA Golden Jubilee International Conference Libraries: Access to Information and Empowering People.

On the occasion of the 50th SLLA General Meeting on 30 June 2010, SLLA President Mr. Upali Amarasiri referred to the early 1970's, when one of the activities of the SLLA was setting up a course in computer literacy, to support the introduction of computers as an integral part of libraries in their administration, bibliographic control and reference services. Now, decades later, the role of libraries has been completely transformed through the use of ICT and the Internet in providing access to knowledge. Despite the progress in time, the role of SLLA at national and international level is ever so strong and remains still inevitably supportive when it comes to empowering people through providing access to knowledge. SLLA continues to play an important role in the Sri Lanka library world, but also in society in general as a true advocate for librarianship.

On behalf of the IFLA community I sincerely wish the Sri Lanka Library Association a bright future, in continuing to provide a source of sound professional engagements and a renewed commitment to our profession. The Sri Lanka Library Association has been a valued IFLA member since 1974. IFLA hopes to embrace continuous cooperation with SLLA for many years to come.

Ellen Tise,
 President - IFLA



Message from
Mr. Upali Amarasiri
 President - Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA)

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) completes its 50th year in 2010 and it is indeed a joyous occasion for all librarians and information professionals in the country. While looking back at the past five decades the SLLA can be proud of its achievements, it can also reflect upon certain areas where achievements did not match up to expectations. The SLLA is glad that it has been able to celebrate this historic occasion in a fitting manner by conducting a number of activities throughout the year including religious ceremonies, publications, regional seminars, publicity campaign, competitions and international conference.

The golden jubilee international conference is the culmination of the 50th anniversary celebrations. We are glad that the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and a number of other Hon Ministers will be gracing the occasion. We are truly delighted to receive Dr (Ms) Ellen Tise, President, International Federations of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) as a Guest of Honour. This is the first time a serving IFLA President is visiting Sri Lanka, which itself is a historic occasion. It is a special joy to receive the present Presidents of library associations in SAARC countries. The Presidents of the Library Associations of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives and a Council Member of the library association of Bangladesh are joining us today to celebrate this important event. We will also conduct the second meeting of the Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA) as a part of the conference.

I once again thank the Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Ministers, President/IFLA and President and representatives of library associations in SAARC countries for gracing this occasion. My special thanks go to all past Presidents and council members of SLLA who did a yeoman service to bring the association to its present level. The sponsors of the event should receive a special appreciation for their generous contributions. I extend my deepest appreciation to the members of the SLLA council and all the members of the association for their unstinted support to make this event a reality and a success.

Upali Amarasiri
 President - SLLA

- 1.30 p.m. Registration
- 2.30 Arrival of the Chief Guest and
Guests of Honour
- 2.35 Lighting of the Oil Lamp
- 2.45 Welcome Address by
Mr. Upali Amarasiri,
President, SLLA
- 2.55 Presentation of Library Charter
- 3.05 Address by Dr. (Ms.) Ellen Tise,
President, IFLA
- 3.20 Presentation of Awards
- 3.30 Address by Hon. John Seneviratne,
Minister of Public Administration and
Home Affairs
- 3.50 Address by Hon. S.B. Dissanayake,
Minister of Higher Education
- 4.10 Presentation of Awards
- 4.15 Address by Hon. D. M. Jayaratne,
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the Chief
Guest
- 4.40 Vote of Thanks by
Ms. Pushpamala Perera,
General Secretary, SLLA.
- 4.45 Refreshments

Inauguration Programme

06.09.2010

A golden jubilee is the celebration of half a century of life whether it be of a human being, a marriage or the existence of an institution. The Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) marks this important milestone this year having been established in 1960 by S C Blok, Librarian of the University of Peradeniya and a couple of others, most of them foreign qualified librarians. It was incorporated by the passing of the Sri Lanka Library Association Act No. 20 of 1974. This was amended and received further legal status by Amendment Act No 7 of 2004.

Vision and objectives

The vision of the SLLA is to be the centre of excellence in the field of library, documentation and information science through educated and proactive membership and collaboration with other stakeholders in the field.

The principal objectives are:

- To act for and represent professionals in librarianship and information work
- To impart and improve knowledge, know-how and skills of those aspiring to be qualified professionals and to promote career development of those already in the profession
- To identify, facilitate and advance professional activities in library and information science (LIS)
- To establish links with the government and national and international organizations in the field of librarianship and allied fields
- The SLLA prides itself on being a founder member of the Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka, instituted in May 1975.

Structure

The Council comprises 20 members with the President, the President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer and the assistants to the last two. Additionally, the various sectors of librarianship

and the provinces are represented. Professional Committees each concern themselves with the areas of education, publications, information technology, international relations, publicity and public relations, continuing professional development, social affairs, office management and finance.

SLLA Initiatives for professionals

Professional Education: SLLA has been very active in the education arena. A flagship diploma programme continues successfully, serving and evolving from the early times upto the present information society. A separate article is available on education activities (See page 12).

Continuous education and training: very necessary in keeping abreast with new trends in the field of library and information science, is carried out through seminars and lecture programmes.

A library association has a duty by its members in promoting their welfare and ensuring they receive fair deals in their profession. The SLLA is not a powerful lobbying force but it has used its influence to improve conditions of work and remuneration of persons in library and information work, and in erasure of anomalies. Advocacy on behalf of librarians or libraries is also carried out. Consultations on request have been many and varied, ranging from advice on the setting up of a library to computerization.

Sri Lanka Library Association

A Brief Introduction

The SLLA actively encourages research in LIS by members and this was given an impetus seven years ago by including a National Conference on Library and Information Science (NACLIS) at the annual sessions of the Association in June, each year where library personnel present research work or new undertakings.

Associateship and Fellowship of the SLLA

Resembling practices advocated by the British Library Association (currently Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals—CILIP) and other well established library associations, those who are successful in the SLLA course of study are eligible for Associateship. This benefit is extended to others who have similar qualifications.

Fellowship is granted on a point scale taking into consideration associateship; service to the SLLA and/or in the field of librarianship; research and publications.

Mention needs to be made of the fact that in 2001 Honorary Fellowship was extended to Sir Arthur C Clarke.

Stature

The SLLA is most definitely a recognized professional organization and one in the absolute forefront of librarianship and information science in the country. The SLLA is represented in major organizations in the LIS field in the country.

The SLLA is a founder member of COMLA – Commonwealth Library Associations and a member of IFLA – The International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions. The SLLA has had the distinction of hosting seminars on behalf of IFLA and holding posts in IFLA.

Publications

Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics and Library Standards for Sri Lanka published by the SLLA have proven to be very useful.

The Sri Lanka Library Association Newsletter and The Sri Lanka Library Review are the Associations continuing publications.

(Extract of an article by Ms.Nanda P. Wanasundara)

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

(Excerpt from www.ifla.org/VII/s40/pub/rakunathan.pdf)

special services and monitor the trends in user-needs.

Library associations provide an opportunity for librarians to meet and share experiences and learn from each other. They offer a range of services to members and look after their interests. For outsiders interested in dealing with the profession, they act as the ideal contact point. Although library associations do serve the needs of their members, ultimately, the long-term benefactors are the end-users of the services that these members provide. They lay down standards for performance, protect the continuing existence of

There are different types of library associations: the very prominent ones are those where membership is granted on the basis of being in that country, or region, as in these examples: American Library Association (ALA), Library Association of Singapore (LAS), or the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL). Others may be based on nature of the library collections or the clientele they serve, as in these examples: Special Libraries Association (SLA), International Association of Technological University Libraries (IATUL) or Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The more unique ones offer membership based on ethnicity or religion. For instance, there are the American Indian Library Association, the Chinese-American Librarians Association, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the Association of Jewish Libraries, and the Catholic Library Association.

Finally, there are international library associations that are truly global, like the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), and large associations that are adding international components, like the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD). Other not-so-large international associations offer membership to a specific professional grouping, type of library or a specific subject area. These professional associations are distinguished by their common issues and trends, including their ability to communicate with their members, their ability to create relevant programs and conferences, and their need for self-evaluation.

The principal activities of the SLLA in its fifty years of service has been focused on would-be librarians and professionals in the field.

The Diploma Course in Library and Information Science conducted by the SLLA in the three languages – Sinhala, Tamil and English in five centres: Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Batticaloa and Jaffna, equips students with knowledge, know-how and skills to effectively manage a library. Divided into three tiers: First Level, and Second Level with Parts 1 and 2; each level runs through one year with lectures on Sundays. Three course-end examinations are conducted and at each level project work is mandatory. A two week period of hands-on training in a well equipped and recognized library is facilitated at the First Level.

The diploma course was offered on a distance education basis starting in 2004 to help students who were unable to attend classes in any of the five centres. This was given during the 30 year terrorist problem that blighted the country. In 2008, the same course - modified to fit the mode of instruction - was offered as an e-learning course with tuition offered on-line and three seminars conducted in Colombo with lecturers meeting the students. It is one of the first online courses offered by a professional organization in Sri Lanka. Deepali Talagala was the moving force behind this innovation.



Library training has not been confined to the country. The SLLA was heavily involved in training potential librarians in the Republic of the Maldives. With funding from organizations such as the British Council, USAID and Asia Foundation, lecturers from the SLLA went across to Male and conducted the three years course in the 1990s. Five librarians, most attached to the National Library in Male, completed the three year course. Subsequently the course was widened with a greater intake and in 2004 library personal from the atolls were trained through outreach teaching methodology with seminars conducted in Male and in Colombo.

SLLA Flagship Educational Programmes

Early in the 1970s, recognizing the fact that computers were to be an integral part of libraries in their administration, bibliographic control and reference services, a course was conducted to impart computer literacy. This Course on Library Automation with the acronym COLA, was initiated by Upali N Yapa and continued by him with other computer savvy librarians assisting.

Awards:

In the Diploma Course, the best students are identified by their exam results and project work and win awards. At the first level in each of the three media, the Blok memorial award of a scholarship for the entire course is awarded. Nanda P Wanasundera awards the A L B Pethiyagoda Memorial Award to the student of the Kandy centre who gets the best results in the first examination. The award carries a scholarship for the next level course.

At Level II Part 1 - a scholarship is awarded whereby the student with the best results at the course end exam in each medium follows the final year course with no payment of fees. To the student with the best results at the final examination, irrespective of centre or medium followed, goes the SLLA Gold Medal.

The award for the best candidate in the COLA course is awarded by the SLLA in memory of Ms C L M Nethsinghe.

50th Council of Sri Lanka Library Association



Seated from left to right: Dr. Ruwan Gamage (Info. & Publicity Officer), Mr. P. R. Padmasiri (Education Officer), Ms. Swarna Jayatilake (Publications Officer), Mr. Punchibanda Gallaba (Immediate Past President), Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe (2nd Immediate Past President), Mr. Upali Amarasiri (President), Mr. Thilak Rathnayake (Vice President), Prof. Jayasiri Lankage (Nominated Member), Ms. Pushpamala Perera (Gen. Secretary), and Ms. D. I. D. Andradi (Treasurer).

Standing left to right: Ms. Priyani Balasuriya (Convenor-School Libraries), Mr. Sugath Gunathillake (Convenor-Government libraries), Mr. Preethi Liyanage (Convenor-Special Libraries), Mr. Anton Nallathambi (Convenor-NGO Libraries), Mr. Ananda Tissa (Asst. Education Officer) and Mr. Geetha David (Asst. Secretary).

Not present: Mr. W. K. M. M. K. Weerasinghe (Nominated member), Mr. Dhammika Weerakoon (Convenor-Public Libraries), Mr. W. Sunil (Convenor-National & Provincial Libraries).

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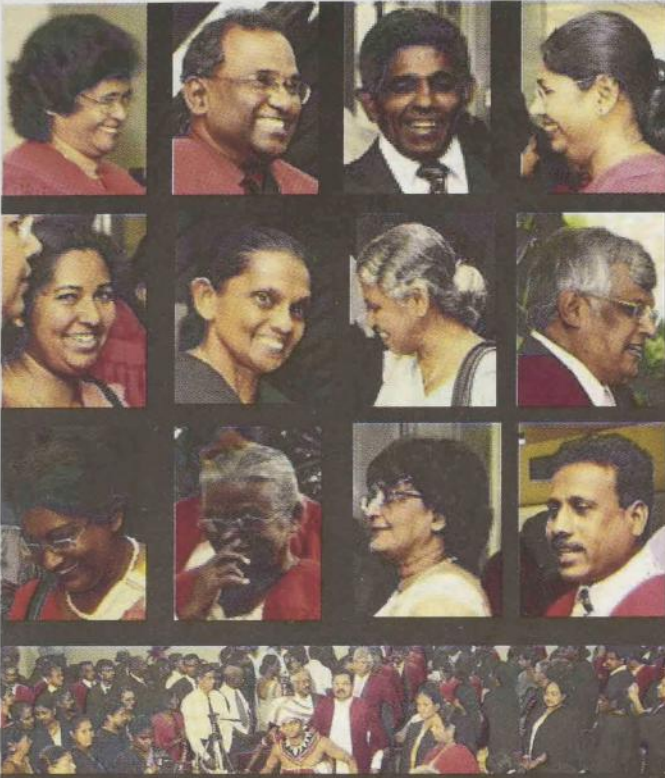


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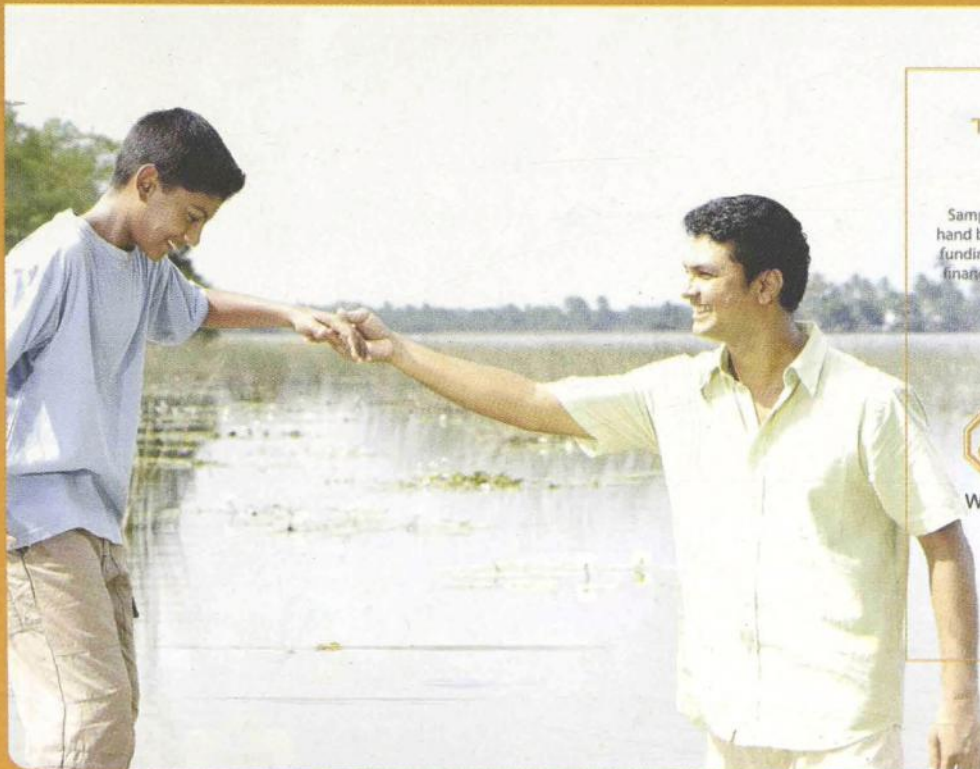
50th AGM Smiles from all corners



The Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Library Association was on Wednesday 30 June, at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, marking not only a year of success but also the celebration of fifty long years of growth and ever expanding service to the people of this country. The

inaugural session had chief guest Deputy Minister of Education, Hon P B Ekanayake and Guests of Honour – Manil Silva – founder member of the SLLA and Prof Somasunderam Chandrasekeram, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo.

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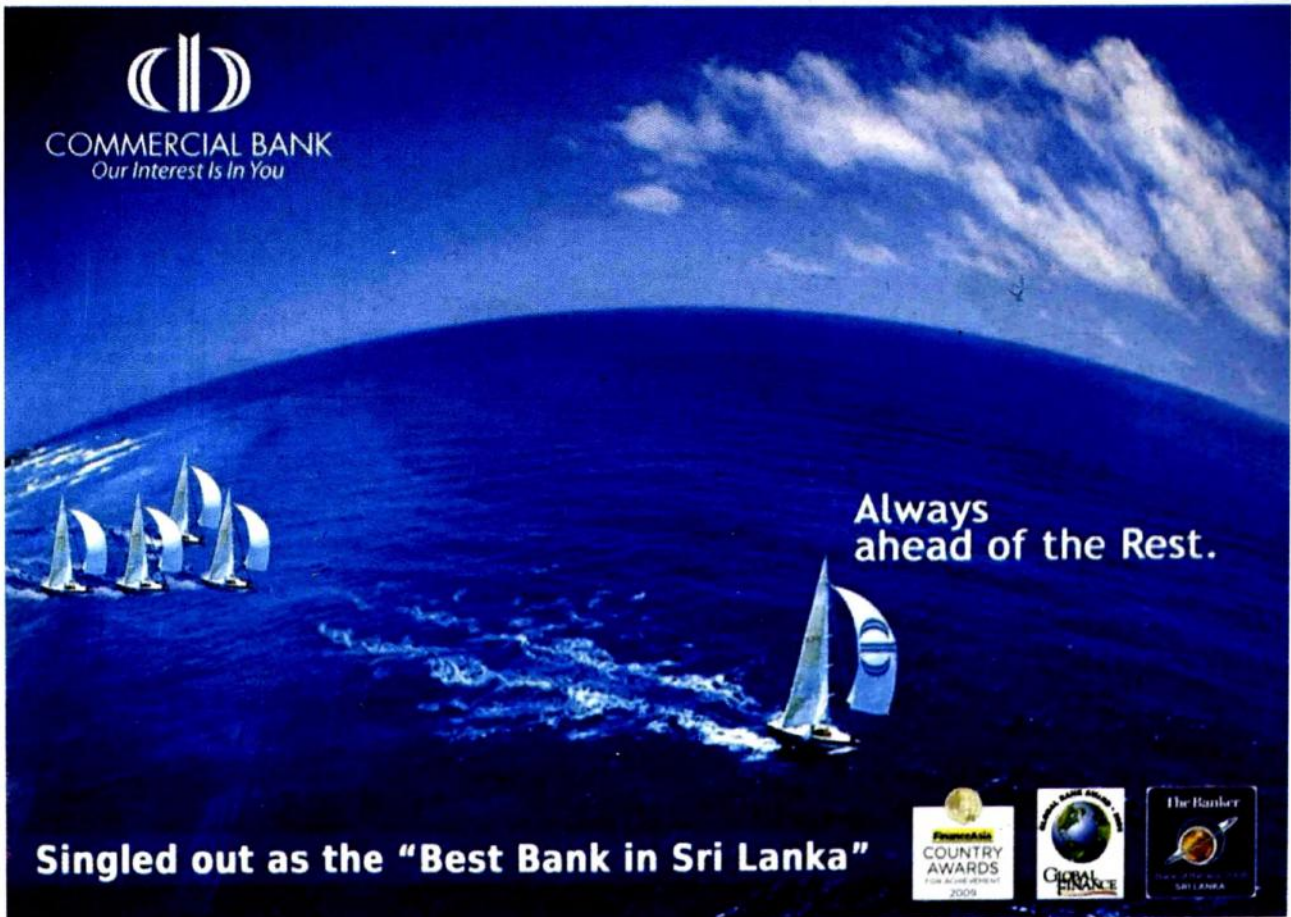
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In recognition of the outstanding professional contribution offered to the Sri Lanka Library Association, Golden Jubilee Awards are given to the following distinguished veteran librarians.

Founder Members

Ms Ishvari Corea, Ms Manil Silva, Ms Vijitha De Silva

Past Presidents

Ms Ishvari Corea, Prof. W B Dorakumbura, Prof Jayasiri Lankage, Ms Sumana Jayasuriya, Ms Daya Ratnayake, Mr P. Vidanapathirana, Mr Harrison Perera, Ms Deepali Talagala, Ms Dilmani Warnasuriya, Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Mr. G.M.P. Gallaba

Golden Jubilee Awards

Longstanding Members

Mr M F Hamid,
Mr. M.C. Ponnampereuma
Mr. K. Manickvasagar

Significant contribution to SLLA by a foreign librarian

Prof. Russell Bowden

Institutional Awards

National Library & Documentation Services Board.
Department of Library & Information Science, University of Kelaniya.

The Awardees

(in the alphabetical order of the Surname)



Prof. Russell Bowden



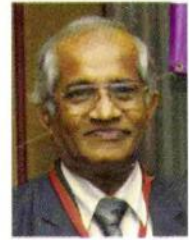
Ms Ishvari Corea



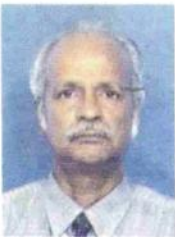
Ms Vijitha de Silva



Prof. W B Dorakumbura



Mr. G.M.P. Gallaba



Mr M F Hamid



Ms Sumana Jayasuriya



Prof Jayasiri Lankage



Mr. K. Manickvasagar



Mr Harrison Perera



Mr. M.C. Ponnampereuma



Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe



Ms Daya Ratnayake



Ms Manil Silva



Ms Deepali Talagala



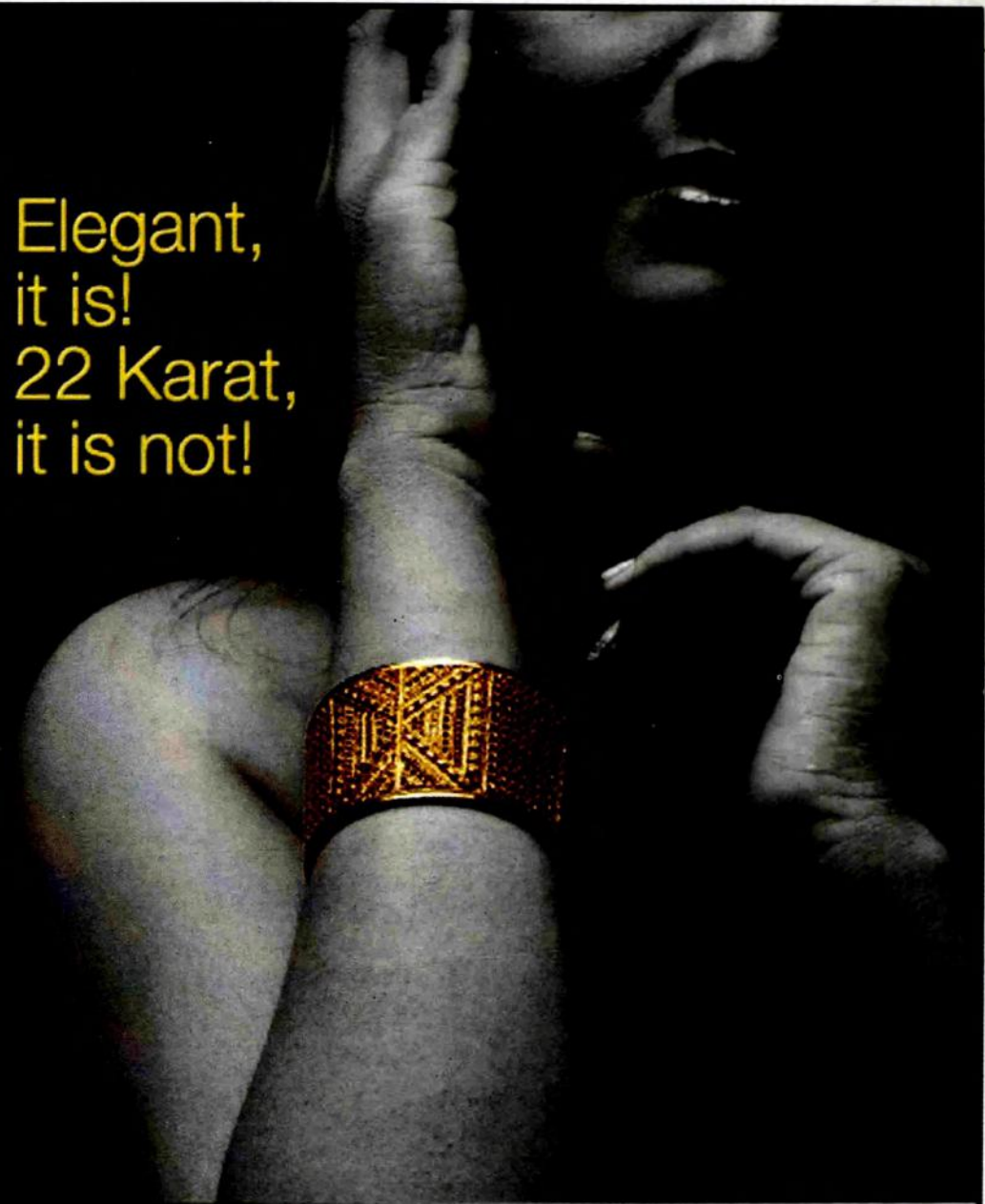
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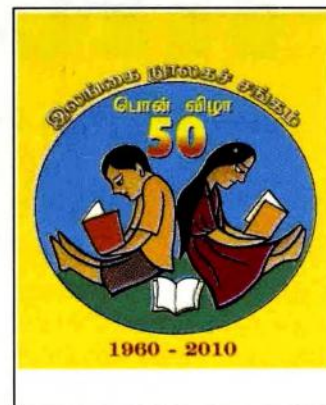
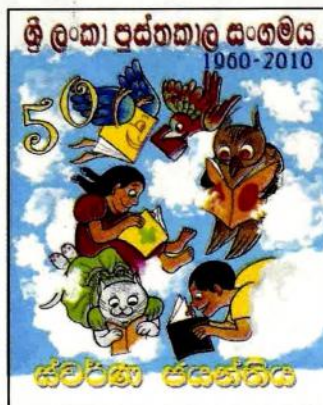
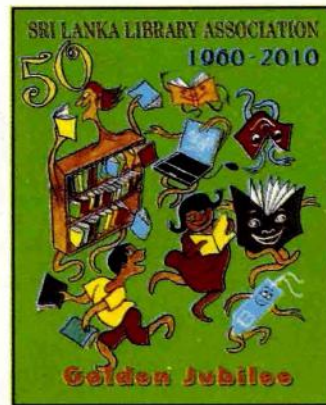
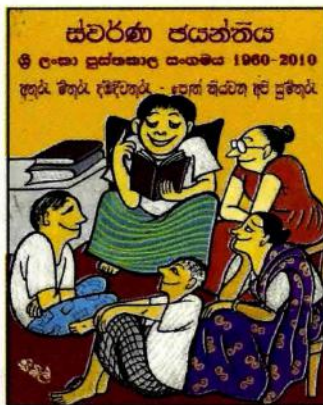
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Continued on page 26...

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Book publishing is about to slide into the sea, wrote Garrison Keillor – American author, humorist and radio person. And with it sank my heart; my heart which ticks in this body of an avid reader, librarian and writer. Hopes mangled, pessimism of a grey future reinforced. What will librarians do without books, asked I. Of course libraries are now e-libraries but how boring they are without the traditional bookshelves holding books of all sizes and content. Then I told myself: "This has happened before." As early as the mid 1970s, (yes, long ago) a solemn pronouncement was made that the book in codex form would soon be kaput, obsolete, extinct. I shivered. The computer had just been introduced to libraries. Mercifully, because of the residual commitment to the traditional and people really loving to hold a book in hand while reading in bed or the beach or in a train, the book is still with us and growing in numbers. So perhaps the warning on the publishing of books as we know it, soon becoming a thing of the past, will also be a cry of wolf. No, I scream - publishing must go on. Change is OK; we have to move with the times, but let some at least of the old remain. I simply cannot read a newspaper off the computer so how a book? And there are lots like me, especially in a tradition-bound country like Sri Lanka.

The Book Continues

Sensible people are yet with us in this world and more so in countries such as ours which are not heavily and totally computerized. An article I read some years ago is still lodged in my mind. The writer wrote that he walked into a room and saw one child at a computer, another at a console with flashing lights, the father reading off a screen and the mother staring into her cell phone. Each was totally absorbed in the bit of techno that s/he had in hand. And then in the corner was a third child seated with a book, turning the pages happily and reading earnestly. That gave him hope, he said, as it did me.

I grew up reading like a demented soul. We had our school library but it was when I moved to Colombo that I and my family found plenty books to our tastes at the Colombo Public Library and the British Council and American Center libraries. As a child I had my Enid Blytons at the start and then school stories and the Anne series and Louisa M Alcott. Two favourites were: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and To Kill a Mocking Bird. I never read true romances and Mills and Boon. Went directly to good fiction from children's literature; no young adult stuff.

Thus the love of books, first inhaling the exciting new smell, then reading it and placing it on a bookshelf to look at with affection each time it is passed by. This is one of the high points of my life. The highest was my joining the SLLA and doing my library studies, completing the LA (UK) course and becoming a librarian. Most glorious was my stint as a school librarian where the library was allocated a huge budget. Due to slowing down or having to keep pace with the years just whizzing past, I shifted my main reading to journals, but they are in paper form, printed and published traditionally. No e-mags for me, please.

Librarians be warned! Publishing as we know it may die!

by Nanda P
Wanasundera

Different styles of writing, even reading

The language of communication has changed. The younger generation have a vocabulary all their own, often combining letters and numerals (U R 2 lderful). It's not only kids and young adults who use this type of shorthand, now so popular with SMS communication. A friend in Singapore e-mails me these cryptic sentences and my foggy brain takes quite a while to decipher her 'speak.' Her latest e-mail had this: "U hd grt time. Gd 4 u." Give me any abbreviations and short hand but please don't mix Arabic numerals with alphabet letters!

We live in literate times where almost everyone can read, and do so, at least newspapers. Sri Lankans boast of course of the country's literacy rate of over 90 percent. People also blog like crazy, read for hours off their little screens, surf away, and it's all free, and they peruse freely, meaning in a skippy manner, these new modes of literature. They're not committed like you would be if you spent Rs 1500 on a book.

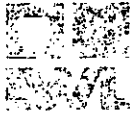
Self-publishing

In this world of advanced technology, the craze for do-it-yourself, laissez faire and self-publishing, if you want to write, you just write and publish yourself. No need to ask permission, just open a Web site. And if you want to write a book, you write it, of course in your computer and send it to Lulu.com or BookSurge at Amazon or PublIt or ExLibris and you've got yourself an e-book. No problem. And that is the future of publishing: 18 million authors in America, each with an average of 14 readers, eight of whom are blood relatives. Average annual earnings: \$1.75, sums up Keillor.

The upside of self-publishing is that you can write whatever you wish to. But there is a downside too. Everyone with a computer can exercise his/her right to read the first three sentences and delete the rest of your writing effort. But if you publish your work in the old fashioned way, you will know how many copies were sold and you can bet ...

Continued on Page 23.

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Should we look at the Decimal Classification of Dewey we find that the first Form Division of almost every Class is the philosophy of the subject. Today, as a good disciple of Dewey, I wish to make the Philosophy of Librarianship the subject of my address. It may be said that the discovery or discussion of a philosophy is the province of the philosopher. But philosophy cannot be taken over readymade. You cannot buy a book on "*Five ways of becoming a philosopher/librarian*", read it in the train or bus and rest content that you know all about it. Nor can I, by addressing you for several weeks on end, convey to you an adequate idea of what constitutes the philosophy of librarianship. I propose to give you the benefit of my experience, the result of the work of a lifetime. From this you might distil something worthwhile to help you on in your career.

The Philosophy of Librarianship does not contain the solutions to the problem of librarianship. It provides man or woman with the knowledge which can solve them. No one knows all the problems, nor does he know all the solutions. Each day brings on a fresh problem, each demanding a solution. This process will go on to the end of our days. A philosophy of librarianship cannot issue suggestions of how a librarian should behave towards his public: that he should not be obtrusive, nor familiar, nor patronising. His behaviour will arise from a certain attitude to librarianship, society and life. Will he behave according to this attitude? Behaviour cannot be governed by rules. It is often said that rules are made to be broken. How true this cynical saying is, we librarians know too well. But each librarian should make his own rules governed by his own experience and his attitudes. He can exercise his own free will. He is a free agent. Unlike the soldier who has to render unflinching obedience to orders, without question, who has but to do and die; unlike the politician who has to make people good voters, not good thinkers and himself think, as his party does. The lawyer is not concerned that those with whom he deals - the judge, jury, witnesses or the other lawyers should acquire knowledge; rather

The Philosophy of Librarianship

by S. C. BLOK

Presidential address delivered on 14 July 1962, at the C.N.A.P.T. Centre, Colombo 7.

does he want them to accept what he says as truth. The policeman has to enforce the law, without thinking, no matter how iniquitous, no matter how unreasonable the law. The parson must look to his self preservation if he feels an opinion contrary to church doctrine. The librarian is however in a singularly happy position. The philosophy that he thinks true as a man, that philosophy he can espouse as a professional man. His vocation can with reasonable courage be free from hypocrisy. There is, however, a limitation which he will have to put on his freedom. He should be free from cant, be as catholic as possible in his tastes, conservative without being dogmatic, receptive to change without being revolutionary.



Mr. S. C. Blok, the First President of SLLA

The philosophy of librarianship should not vary with every type of library. It should not concern itself with the functions or limit itself by those functions of education or instruction, information, recreation and research. The philosopher's ideal is to interpret the subject matter, in this instance, librarianship, in the light of a single principle. It is this principle that we are in search of. If it is sound it will give character to everything else. What should be our principle or ideal? There may be a librarian who is ready to grant that librarianship has some use for a philosophy and tries to find one for himself. Or he may expect to be informed by someone else

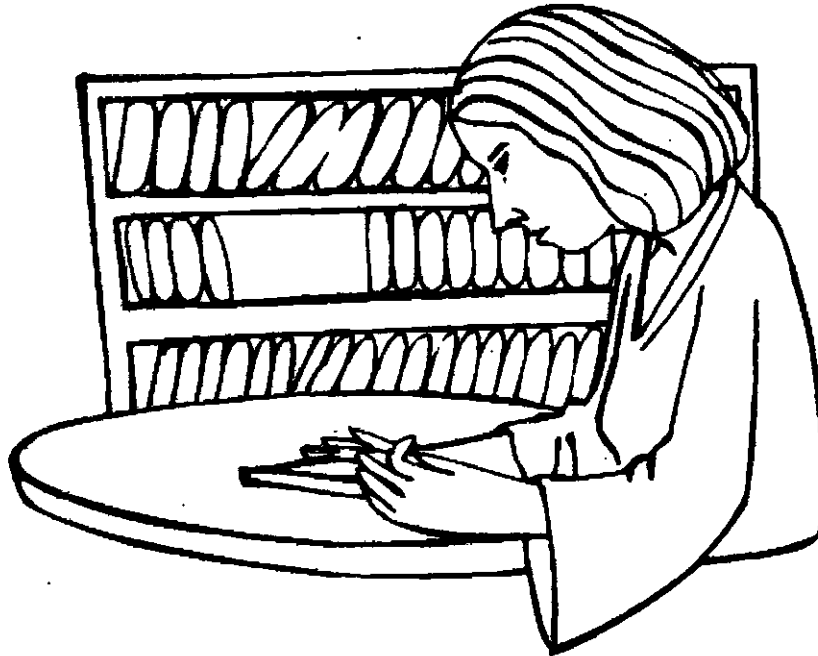
what a library should aim to be. He considers it worthwhile to discover what is perfect and in his search would be glad to have the ideals of others, different though they may be. Perhaps amid the conflicts of ideals it might be possible to find agreement. It is therefore important that each of us have our ideals and aims as in other activities of man and not be reluctant in working towards them. You should not be indifferent to a goal, an ideal or end; rather must you have some aim than none at all. Herein lies the way to achievement.

Book-collection is not everything. A book collector collects books just as a school boy collects stamps, match box labels, pictures of film stars or cow-boys, for the sake of collecting. He does not promote scholarship. He is driven by the urge to collect. This is not the goal a philosophy of librarianship would prescribe. What is needed is a purpose in collecting. People collect pictures, sculpture, coins, silver, jewellery, antique furniture and various other artefacts, merely for the pleasure of collecting or hoping the value of their collections will increase with time. The philosophy we librarians subscribe to must have nobler intentions.

The collection of books in a library exists for the sake of freedom of thought. But this freedom is often threatened from various directions. It is necessary for librarians to be aware of this threat and guard zealously their own and others' right to think. The right of freedom of thought cannot be taken away from man. He can be prevented from eating, sleeping, meeting or voting, but he cannot be prevented from thinking. The dictator's wish is to find out what man is thinking and to determine what he shall think. He will never

achieve his wish of finding out what a man thinks, but he will do his best to decide what man should think. Progress has been made in this direction by indirect methods. It is these methods that libraries are concerned with and have to combat; the methods that do not prevent thinking, but circumvent it in various ways, so as to alter its quality.

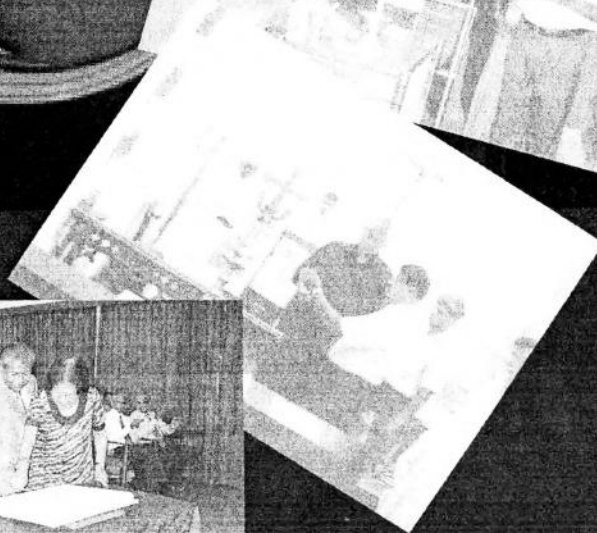
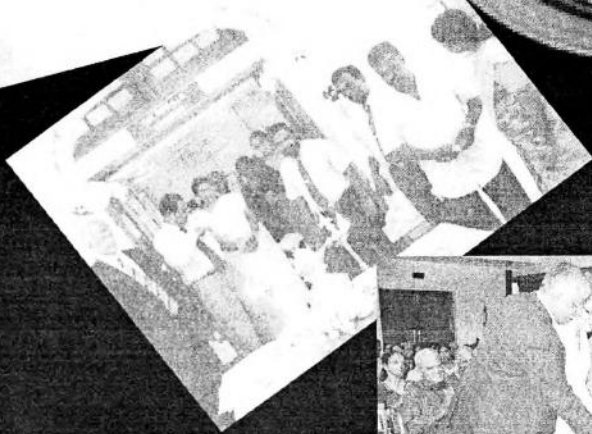
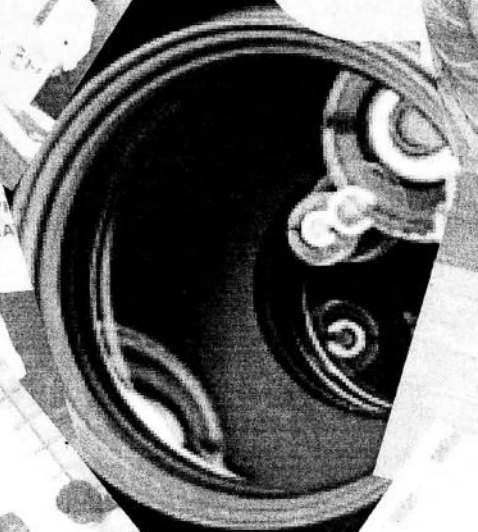
Today liberty of thought is held cheap, so is freedom of action. The necessity of considering the rightness or wrongness of an action is taken out of the hands of the person who performs the act. Take the offer and the acceptance of a bribe or consideration that will influence a person to perform an act, whether for good or ill. This per-



vades the whole social system of this country. Why? Contrary opinion is not tolerated. People tolerate what they ought not to. Man should be taught to think and judge between right and wrong. The only way to teach him is to develop his faculties so that he would use them. The faculties require training. Without the

proper nutrition a living being's organs will atrophy. Without mental food man's powers of thinking will suffer in the same way. A man who could exercise his powers of thinking would not be able to do so unless librarians place the facilities at his disposal. Once librarians have given careful thought to the provision of facilities and have made them known, without undue show, the duty then devolves on each individual for whom the provision is made, to freely avail himself of it. The duty to read and think is simply one which an individual owes to himself. Today, I am sorry to say, men have forgotten how to be happy in private. They forget 'silent friends' who are waiting to be received in audience. The librarian could help these people by introducing them to these friends.

Year Around Golden Jubilee Celebrations



The first main event of the 50th SLLA council was the inauguration of the new web site (18th December 2009). The first set of promotional materials - Golden Jubilee Posters - were released in January, 2010. The GJ celebrations of the SLLA was officially launched at the Prime Minister's office on the 28th January 2010. From the following month, various religious activities were carried out, blessing the SLLA and its activities. In April, two brochures describing past & present activities of SLLA were released. A car sticker and a second set of posters were released in addition. Regional Seminars were held in Kandy (June), Jaffna (July), and Colombo (August). The 50th birthday of SLLA was celebrated on the 28th August 2010 at the auditorium of the Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo, where the association was formed exactly 50 years ago (Photos Contd. to Page 20).

SLLA Golden Jubilee Posters

...continued from page 19.



Ms.Sybil Wettasinghe

Mrs. Sybil Wettasinghe, creative writer and famous Sri Lankan children's author designed four attractive posters for the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of SLLA. Some posters not only recall the age old habit of family reading, but also looks at the concept from a different angle. Another, blends traditional reading material with products of modern technology.

The posters, which are available in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, were distributed among public, school and other of libraries in all over the country. The posters are expected to remind the importance of reading, at the same time, carrying the message that SLLA is 50.

Librarians be warned!...

...continued from page 21.

that 75 percent of the buyers read your book. Self-publishing destroys the joy and sorrow, tears and smiles, the tediousness of proof reading and then the utter fulfilled excitement of seeing your book nicely bound, jacketed brilliantly and ready to be sold. That is indescribable! Personally I admire the martyrdom that writers have gone through for centuries: tortured geniuses, rejected by publishers, etc., etc. Those of us who have a book/s in print know the trials and tribulations undergone and then the triumphant joy

There are plenty lucky people with a mix of reading – off the computer, on Internet or websites, and also published books and journals on paper with a cover and all. Thank goodness we are still in publishing on paper with ink, the publisher producing slight paperbacks and hard-covered tomes, even leather bound classics, though this is the electronic and information age.

Thus I make bold to say publishing as we know it – traditional, now advanced with technology - will not slide to the sea and disappear. Like the perennial popularity of the traditional book as we know it and love, publishing will go on with people type setting script and machines using ink to print words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, incorporating illustrations and photographs - ON PAPER!

SLLA Golden Jubilee Poster Competition Winning Entries



1



2



3



4

SLLA held a Poster & Photography Competition to mark the Golden Jubilee. The following winners have been announced

School: St. Joseph's College, Colombo.

2nd Prize (Image 4)

Poson Rouso Miranda Kochchikade

Open Category

1st Prize (Image 1)

School: Maris Stella College, Negambo.

Upul Chaminda Wathukarawaththa Opanayake

Prizes for the following two categories were not awarded.

2nd Prize (Image 2)

Poster Competition - School Candidates - (Gd.11 - 13) Category

Saroja Kumari Jayalath Kahaduwa

NOT Awarded

School Candidates - (Grades 6 - 10)

1st Prize (Image 3)

Photographic competition - Open Category

Isuru Sadara Miranda Kochchikade

NOT Awarded

Sri Lanka Library Association: Golden Jubilee International Conference; 7-8 October 2010,
Ceylon Continental Hotel, Colombo
Programme

Theme – 'Libraries: Access to Information and Empowering People'

Thursday 7th October 2010

Session 1 (9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.)

Theme: Access to Information

(Chair – Mr Upali Amarasinghe, President, Sri Lanka Library Association)

- 9.00 a.m. Lead Paper - 'Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge' Dr (MS) Ellen Tise,
President, IFLA
- 9.35 a.m. 'Access to Information and digital divide in Sri Lanka',
Dr Ruwan Gamage, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa
- 9.55 a.m. 'Access to information; Experiences in Maldives',
Ms. Aishath Shabana, President, Maldives Library Association

— 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Meeting of the Presidents of
Library Associations in SAARC Region —

Session 2 (11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

Theme: Empowerment of People

(Chair – Ms. Sumana Jayasuriya, Librarian, University of Colombo)

- 11.00 a.m. Lead Paper 'Empowerment of people in 21st Century',
Prof. Jayadewa Uyangoda, Dept. of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo
- 11.35 a.m. 'Contribution of ICT in rural empowerment in Sri Lanka'
Mr L.A. Jayatissa, Librarian, University of Kelaniya
- 11.55 a.m. 'Free flow of Information and removal of barriers',
Ms Nanada Wanasundara, Librarian/ Journalist

Session 3 (11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.) Parallel Session

Theme: Access to Health Information

(Chair – Dr Palitha Abeykoon, Former WHO Regional Director for Asia & Special Advisor, Ministry of Health)

- 11.00 a.m. Lead paper 'Empowering People through Health Information',
Ms Shyamalee Thebuwana, Librarian, WHO office, Sri Lanka
- 11.35 a.m. 'Utilization of Epidemiological Publications among health professionals',
Ms. Kalpana Chandrasekara, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Jaffna
- 11.55 a.m. 'Barriers in Accessing Health Information in Sri Lanka',
Ms C M Abeygunasekara, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Kelaniya

Session 4 (1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.)

Theme: Information Literacy

(Chair – Prof. Russell Bowden, Hon. Librarian, RASSL)

- 1.15 p.m. Lead Paper – Information Literacy: New beginning for LIS Professionals in Sri Lanka',
Dr (Ms) Pradeepa Wijetunge, Senior Asst Librarian, University of Colombo
- 1.50 p.m. Using 'Empowering 8' as a teaching module for Information Literacy,
Mr. P.G. Premadasa, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences
- 2.10 p.m. 'Internet competencies of the distance learners; a case study at Open University of
Sri Lanka'
Ms Damayanthi Gunasekara, Senior Asst. Librarian, Open University of Sri Lanka

Session 5 (1.15 p.m.-2.45 p.m.) Parallel Session**Theme: Community Information***(Chair – Mr Prakash Thapa, President, Nepal Library Association)*

- 1.15 p.m. Lead Paper 'Community Information Services; A Comparative Analysis of Four Venue Types'
Ms Lilangani Wanasundara, Consultant, CENWOR
- 1.50 a.m. 'First Provincial LIS Project in Sri Lanka', Ms Daya Rathnayake, Chairperson,
Central Province Library Services Board, Kandy
- 2.10 a.m., 'Role of Jaffna Public Library in Community Information Services',
Mr S.Thanabalasingam, Librarian, Jaffna Public Library

Session 6, (2.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.)**Theme: LIS Curricula Reforms***(Chair – Prof. Jayasiri Lankage, Former Librarian, University of Kelaniya)*

- 2.45 p.m. Lead Paper 'Changing scenario of Librarianship in Pakistan and its impact on LIS education'
Dr (Ms) Malahat Shervani, Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of
Karachchi, President, Pakistan Library Association
- 3.20 p.m. 'LIS Curricula Changes to suit the development needs',
Ms Shivanthi Weerasinghe, Librarian, Bank of Ceylon
- 3.40 p.m. 'What employers expect from LIS professionals in the early 21st century',
Mr Priyantha Weerabahu, Intel Education Programme Manager, Sri Lanka

Session 7 (2.45 p.m.-4.15 p.m.), Parallel Session**Theme: National Library Services***(Chair: Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Dept. of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya)*

- 2.45 p.m. Lead Paper -'Dissemination of S&T information at national level in Sri Lanka',
Ms Sunethra Perera, Head, Science Popularization Unit, National Science Foundation
- 3.20 p.m. 'National Bibliographic Services for Empowering Librarians & researchers',
Ms. Amara Nanayakkara, Former Head, National Bibliographic Division, NLDDB
- 3.40 p.m. Initiatives for Building Institutional Repositories in Bangladesh using Dspace:
A new paradigm for scholarly communications; Dr Nazin Uddin, Senior Mngager,
Global ICDDR, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Friday 8th October**Session 8, (9.00 a.m. – 10.30 p.m.)****Theme: Indigenous Knowledge***(Chair – Ms Aishath Shabana, President, Maldives Library Association)*

- 9.00 a.m. Lead Paper 'Indigenous Knowledge for National Development',
Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Kelaniya University
- 9.35 a.m. 'Indigenous Knowledge in medicine',
Mr. G R Padmasiri, Librarian, University of Visual & Performing Arts
- 9.55 a.m. 'Preserving Indigenous Knowledge',
Dr Saroja Wettasinghe, Director, Dept. of National Archives

Session 9 (9.00 a.m.-10.30 a.m.) Parallel Session**Theme – Changing Role of Library Associations***(Chair- Mr Dharam Veer Singh, Presiden, Indian Library Association)*

- 9.00 a.m. Lead paper 'SLLA at Fifty; A critical look'.
Prof. Jayasiri Lankage, Former Librarian, University of Kelaniya
- 9.35 a.m. 'Library Education and Training role of SLLA'
Ms Pushpamala Perera, General Secretary, SLLA
- 9.55 a.m. 'SLLA looking towards the future'. Ms D. Andradi, President, Elect, SLLA

Session 10 (11. a.m to 12.30 p.m.)**Theme - National Unity****(Chair - Dr (Ms) Ellen Tise, President, IFLA)**

- 11.00 a.m. Lead Paper, 'National Unity from diversity; Role of the Libraries',
Prof. Russell Bowden, IFLA Hon Fellow, Hon. Librarian, RASSL
- 11.35 a.m. 'Libraries contribution to the development of Batticaloa District of Eastern Sri Lanka',
Ms T. Arulnandhi, Librarian, Eastern University of Sri Lanka
- 11.55 a.m. Role of National Library in Sri Lanka in National Unity, Ms M.A. Nalini,
Director, National Library and Documentation Services Board

Session 11 (11a.m. to 12.30 p.m.) Parallel Session**Theme: History of Libraries****(Chair- Dr Ms Malaikat Shervani, President, Pakistan Library Association)**

- 11.00 a.m. Lead Paper 'Historical evidence in library services in ancient Sri Lanka',
Mr. Ashly De Vos, Architectural Consultant to H.E. the President
- 11.35 a.m. Development of Libraries in Nepal,
Mr Prakash Thapa, President, Nepal Library Association
- 11.50 a.m. 'University Library Services in Sri Lanka; Historical Perspective',
Ms. Sumana Jayasuriya, Librarian, Colombo University

Session 12 (1.15 p.m.- 2.45 p.m.)**Theme: Disaster Management in LIS Field****(Chair - Dr Nazzin Uddin, Global ICDDR, Bangladesh)**

- 1.15 p.m. Lead Paper 'Sri Lanka's Palm leaf manuscripts heritage, a critical review',
Prof. Tissa Kariyawasam
- 1.50 p.m. 'Disaster Management in Libraries, Indian experiences,
Mr Dharam Veer Singh, President Indian Library Association
- 2.10 p.m. 'Hikkaduwa Library Appeal' of Government Library and Information Group (GLIG) of
Cilip' Video Presentation, GLIG, CILIP, London (Tsunami Library Project)

Closing Session (3.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.)

Messages from overseas well-wishers for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations...

I wish your colleagues a very enjoyable
celebration.

**Helen Boelens - ENSIL Foundation (European
Network for School Libraries and Information
Literacy)**

Congratulations on 50 years of service to our
profession. Best wishes for a happy and
prosperous future.

**Donna Scheeder - Deputy Chief Information
Officer - Congressional Research Service,
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.**

Congratulations! That is quite a milestone. Keep
up the good work.

**Michele Farrell, Senior Program Officer -
Institute of Museum and Library Services,
Washington, DC**

Congratulations to the SLIA on the 50th
Anniversary! May it grow from strength to
strength. I hope the celebrations invigorated all
members to commit to the SLIA's sustained
success and attraction of new members.

Kay Raseroka - Past President IFLA

Congratulations on your 50th birthday! It sounds
like you have a wonderful celebration planned.
May you have another glorious, information-
filled 50 years. Best Wishes.

Lorraine Jackson

SLLA Office Bearers (2010-2011)

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 Prof. Russell Bowden
 Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe (2nd Immediate Past President)

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Closing Session (3.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m.)

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I wish your colleagues a very enjoyable
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Congratulations on 50 years of service to our
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Congratulations! That is quite a milestone. Keep
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*Michèle Farrell, Senior Program Officer -
Institute of Museum and Library Services,
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Kay Raseroka - Past President IFLA

Congratulations on your 50th birthday! It sounds
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May you have another glorious, information-
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Lorraine Jackson

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 Ms.Janaki Fernando
 Ms.Maheshika De Silva
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 Ms. Indra Ranasingha

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 Ms Daya Rathnayake
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 Ms D. Andradi
 Ms K Kamalambikai
 Ms Amara Nanayakkara
 Dr W Weerasooriya

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Prof. Russell Bowden- Convener
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 M D H Jayawardene
 Ms.M A Nalini
 Ms. Swarna Jayatileke
 Ms. Pushpamala Perera

Acknowledgements

The Organising Committee would like to thank...

*Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Higher Education, and
Hon. Minister of Public Administration & Home Affairs*

*IFLA president, and presidents and representatives of library
associations of the region*

Other distinguished guests

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Conference participants

Sponsors of the event

*Mr. Pushpakumara Mahagammullage at Chamath Enterprises
for bearing with last-minute changes & doing a good print job*

*Mr. Nihal Atukorala of Javana Graphics Pvt. Ltd. for part-
sponsoring the Conference Proceedings ring file*

Staff and Management of Ceylon Continental Hotel

SLLA membership

SLLA office staff

50th Anniversary task forces and committees

*and for all those who partnered with us to make this a
memorable occasion.*

...The Sri Lanka Library Association has rendered commendable service in improving the library infrastructure in the country. Training librarians, research and publication and other professional activities carried out by the association, laid the necessary foundation for the development of modern libraries in Sri Lanka...'

H.E. the President

Mahinda Rajapaksha

In a message to the 50th AGM of SLLA
