



# SLLA NEWSLETTER

**Quarterly Bulletin of the Sri Lanka Library Association**

## **Sri Lanka Library Association Receives The National Library Award For Contribution To Reading Promotion And Library Development In Sri Lanka**



On the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the main ceremony of the National Reading Month, the Sri Lanka Library

Association was awarded a trophy for its contribution to the promotion of reading in the community and for the continuous programmes conducted by the association for the development of library services in the country.

The ceremony was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute Auditorium with the Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, the Prime Minister at the Chair. Mr Piyadasa Ranasinghe, President of the SLLA accepted the award on behalf of the association. Our association was well represented at the ceremony with the presence of several council members as well as other members.

In 2004, the National Library and Documentation Services Board ( NLDSB) and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs jointly declared the month of October as the National Reading Month as an appreciative measure on the essential function that reading plays in the development of the community. To observe the National Reading Month a variety of inventive and inspiring reading and library services programmes were fulfilled since then.

The theme for this year's programme was "Reading & Development" and poster competitions, poster exhibitions, short story competitions, essay competitions and school seminars were conducted by the NLDSB at district level. Our Association had been throughout organizing reading camps mainly for children, and

several seminars and workshops for the upkeep of the library services. Some of such activities were workshop on best office practices and communication skills, regional workshop on creating a digital library using WINISIS, workshop on research methodology, training programme on audiovisual material management and digital conversion. Nevertheless our activities have taken a special consideration on the Rehabilitation of Tsunami Libraries Project with outreach programmes in the pilot projects and offered opportunities for the respective librarians in those libraries to participate in our workshops, seminars etc.

Apart from the usual programmes, Mr.J. Ratnayake, the Information and Publicity Officer, participated in a TV interview on reading and usage of libraries.

This trophy was awarded to several other prominent authorities in this field and this is the first time that the SLLA was awarded a trophy in recognition of its contribution to the development of the library services.



### **INSIDE**



<b>Editorial</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>SLLA News &amp; Events</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>SLLA Committees</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Achievements &amp; Endeavours</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>News &amp; Events in LIS Community</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>SLLA Activities</b>	<b>08</b>

**We wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year !**

---

# Editorial

## Encourage reading habits

With the advancement in the methods of knowledge acquisition in the world, librarians have adopted changes in their profession. In the years gone by, the librarian was a person who methodically organized knowledge (books and other reading material) in the library and waited for the users to make use of it. Today, as a result of the information explosion and other developments in the communication field this outlook has changed. Librarians still, are the experts in organising knowledge and make it available for the users but we have changed our outlook and have extended our services to see the final result of the books in a library being really read / referred and made use of.

There is a saying that you can take a donkey to the water but you cannot make it drink. The librarians, some years back, looked sadly at the rows and rows of unused books in the library and lamented on the unutilization of available knowledge. But today with the vast changes in the information world, the librarians have changed their attitudes, duties, obligations .... They actually introduce various methods to see that the books in the library move in and out of the library and that those are read and made use of. How are our librarians doing this or should do this?.

The basic skills in reading has to be cultivated from the very young age. Awareness in reading and comprehension skills need to be developed at nursery level during the period of schooling of a child. Hence, the school librarians, teacher/librarians, children's librarians and public librarians are the main persons who are entrusted with the important task of motivating the younger generation to cultivate the reading habit.

It is heartening to know that some public libraries and school libraries in the country conduct reading programmes for children to cultivate the reading habit. Some school libraries organize family literacy programmes where the parents participate in reading, reading comprehension and literature programmes along with teachers, librarians and the students. Guided reading is another way of increasing reading comprehension and fluency. This needs training of teachers and librarians in organizing programmes to promote reading. School curricula, classroom environment, family involvement, further improving teacher/ teacher-librarian education/training are some factors that support guided reading. Storybook reading increases the vocabulary and improves poor skills in expression. It is a useful practice to have encourage shared storybook reading in school libraries and in children's libraries, so that children could actively participate in sharing and exchanging knowledge. Dialogic reading among children makes significant improvement in the language and knowledge. Read – aloud is another form of reading that can attract especially the lower age groups. Story telling sessions organized by the library will be a good grounding for the younger generations to start reading.

These are some outreach activities the librarians can organize to attract the children to visit the library and involve in reading. It is a known fact that children who read get higher scores in classroom tests.

---

## SLLA News and Events

### News from the Education Committee

#### Seminars/ Workshops

A workshop for the students following the distance course ( postal) was held on the 20th & 21st October 2007.

A lecturers meeting was held on the 8th December 2007. The syllabi and the teaching methodology were discussed at this meeting.

A seminar on Essay Writing for the DIPLIS Level 2 Part 2 students was held on the 17th November 2007 and 58 students including 17 from Batticaloa participated. Mr N U Yapa was the Chief Resource Person.

A seminar on Compilation of Bibliographies was conducted by Mr G M P B Gallaba on the 15th December 2007 for the DIPLIS students.

#### Examinations

The repeat examination for the DIPLIS Level 2 part 1 ( 2006-2007) was conducted on the 27th - 28th October and 4th November 2007. The results of this exam was released in December 2007.

**DIPLIS Level 2 Part 2** ( Repeat) examination results were released in October 2007.

**DIPLIS Level 1** examination results were released on the 8th January 2008.

Results of all examinations are available online through our website.

#### Courses

**DIPLIS Level I (2008)** will commence on 23rd February, the inaugural session being held at the Technical College auditorium. The SLLA will offer this programme as an Online Distance Learning Course for the first time.

### Workshops :

The Continuing Professional Development Committee will conduct the following workshops / training programmes in the coming month.

If you are interested in participating please contact :

**wsene@ou.ac.lk Tel: 2805476**

⇒ Workshop on " Planning and Designing of Current Awareness and Information Products". Scheduled to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

Venue: Open University of Sri Lanka.  
(Fee - Rs. 6000.00)

⇒ Workshop on " Using DDC 22 and Subject Headings in making bibliographic entries". Scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Venue: National Library.  
(Fee. Rs. 250.00)

⇒ Workshop on "Designing library Web Pages : a hands on training on technical aspects". Scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Venue: Open University of Sri Lanka.  
(Fee Rs. 6000.00)

### SLLA Job Bank

Ms Venetia de Zoysa , former Librarian of the Institute of Occupational Health was nominated by the SLLA council to be in charge of the job bank. If you are looking out for a job or want to change your job please contact her. She will do her best to assist you.

**Tel: 2589103 e-mail: slla@slt.net.lk**

---

### Sri Lanka Library Review

The Publications Committee wishes to receive articles from the members to be published in the next issue in June 2008. Articles will be accepted till 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Please check the SLLA website (<http://www.slla.org.lk>) for guidelines on submitting articles. You may submit articles written in Sinhala, English or Tamil.

---

### CONGRATULATIONS !

Mr. Upali Amarasiri for being appointed as the Director NILIS, University of Colombo. He is leaving the National Library after serving there for 31 years, of which he was the Director General of the National Library & Documentation Services Board for 19 years.

---

## SLLA Committees 2007-2008

### Education :

Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe - Convener  
 Ms. Shirani Dharmaratne  
 Mr. Piyadasa Ranasinghe  
 Mr. G.M. P.B. Gallaba  
 Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya  
 Ms. Deepali Talagala  
 Mr. N.U. Yapa  
 Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne  
 Ms. Swarna Jayatilleka  
 Mr. Sugath Gunathilleke  
 Ms. T. Arulnandi  
 Ms. Kalpana Chandraseker  
 Ms. U.G.M.P. Kariyawasam  
 Ms. I.G. Chitraseeli  
 Ms. Nalini Wijenayake

### Information and Public Relations :

Mr. J. Ratnayake - Convener  
 Ms. Nanda Wanasundera  
 Mr. Preethi Liyanage  
 Ms. Pushpamala Perera  
 Mr. Ananda Tissa  
 Ms. Kaushalya Ratnasekera  
 Ms. Malkanthi Amarasinghe  
 Ms. Priyani Balasuriya

### LIS Research :

Mr. Upali Amarasiri - Convener  
 Mr. J.A. Amaraweera  
 Ms. V.N. Perera  
 Mr. K.S.K. Pathiratne  
 Mr. L.A. Jayatissa  
 Mr. D.G.I.K. Dassanayake  
 Mr. W.M.T.D. Ranasinghe

### Information Technology :

Mr. J.A. Amaraweera - Convener  
 Ms. Deepali Talagala  
 Ms. Premila Gamage  
 Ms. Priyadarshani Hemakumara  
 Mr. J. Ratnayake  
 Mr. N.U. Yapa  
 Mr. Jagath Weerawardena  
 Mr. S.U. Amarasinghe  
 Ms. Malkanthi Amarasinghe  
 Mr. R.P.R.N. Premarathna  
 Ms. C.M. Abeygunasekera

### Office Management & Finance :

Mr. Anton D. Nallathamby - Convener  
 Mr. Piyadasa Ranasinghe  
 Ms. D. Daniel  
 Mr. J.A. Amaraweera  
 Ms. D.M.P. Bandaranayake

### Social Affairs :

Mr. R.D. Ananda Tissa - Convener  
 Mr. N.U. Yapa  
 Mr. G.M.P.B. Gallaba  
 Mr. J. Ratnayake  
 Mr. G.R. Padmasiri  
 Mr. W.S. Punyawardena  
 Ms. D.I.D. Andradi  
 Ms. H.N.J. Fernando  
 Ms. Chandrika Dabare  
 Mr. Sugath Gunathilake  
 Ms. R.C. Kusumanjali

### Continuing Professional Development :

Dr. (Ms.) W. Seneviratne - Convener  
 Ms. Amara Nanayakkara  
 Ms. Badra Jayasinghe  
 Ms. Damayanthi Gunasekera  
 Mr. Trevine Bastians

### International Relations :

Prof. Russell Borden - Convener  
 Ms. Premila Gamage  
 Ms. Deepali Talagala  
 Mr. J. Ratnayake  
 Mr. Upali Amarasiri  
 Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe

### Fellowship :

Mr. N.U. Yapa - Convener  
 Mr. Upali Amarasiri  
 Ms. Ishvari Corea  
 Prof. Russell Borden  
 Mr. Piyadasa Ranasinghe

### NACLIS :

Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya - Convener  
 Ms. Premila Gamage  
 Ms. Wathmanel Seneviratne  
 Ms. Lilmani Amarasekera  
 Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe  
 Ms. Mahesika De Silva  
 Ms. Priyadarshani Hemakumara  
 Mr. Anton D. Nallathamby  
 Ms. Shirani Dharmaratne

### Tsunami Rehabilitation:

Ms. D.I.D. Andradi - Convener  
 Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya  
 Ms. Swarna Jayathilake  
 Ms. G.M. De Silva  
 Ms. Priyadarshani Hemakumara  
 Mr. Anton D. Nallathamby

### Publications :

Ms. G M de Silva - Convener  
 Ms. Deepali Talagala  
 Mr. N.U. Yapa  
 Ms. Kamalambikai Kanthappu  
 Mr. K P G Kumarasiri

Mr. S K K Sirisena  
 Ms. P Hemakumara  
 Mr. Saman Devagamage  
 Mr. Jagath Weerawardane  
 Mr. Sugath Gunatilleke

---

## **Achievements and Endeavours of Member Librarians**

### **HIMALI'S STORY :**

Ms. N A Himali K Karunaratne is the Librarian of the Payagala Public Library. She is a Bachelor of Laws graduate and an Associate of the SLLA. She has sat for the M A ( LIS) of the Kelaniya University and is awaiting results. Prior to her present appointment, Himali was attached to the Sri Subhuthi Memorial Public Library at Waskaduwa in the Kalutara Provincial Council area from 1995-1998 where she first experienced outreach work in a public library.

" My greatest happiness and achievement in my career is to disseminate knowledge to all those who come to my library in search of knowledge irrespective of nationality, class, religion and age" Himali ascertains herself.

"I assumed duties as the Librarian of the Payagala Public Library on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001. The library was located in a dimly lighted small room in a corner of the premises of the Payagala Provincial Council sub office. The library consisted of one almairah of books, a table and seven chairs for the readers, and the Librarian's seat. There were a little over a thousand books in the collection and the membership was 142 with an active membership of 40. The reason for this poor situation, I understood, was that the Payagala Public Library was burnt by the terrorists in 1989 and a small space was given to shelter what was remaining of the library. I perceived the possibilities of having a good library and did not stop my persuasion to the authorities repeatedly explaining that a suitable building was needed to extend good library services to the public. I made it easy for the authorities by locating a suitable site, which was a closed up nursery school adjoining the Payagala sub-office, to be given to start a new library. I was thrilled when my request was acceded to in February 2001.

I observed the immense outreach services this library can offer to the community and realized that the members could participate in the library activities to help develop the community. My first step was to start a readers club named "Mihisara" with the rich human resource available and with almost zero physical resource. I encouraged the members to participate in aesthetic activities and also to expand the membership while the political leadership donated resources for the library. Our club has participated in cleaning hospital wards, cultural events and religious events. Many trophies were won by the members in the drama and art competitions they took part. I felt contented over the opportunity given to the community to expose their talents. Most of the books borrowed by members were lost during the tsunami. Not a single book that was issued was returned after the tsunami. I explored ways to fill up the loss of books in the library. On my request to the Sri Lanka Library Association, National Library Services and Documentation Board, Local Government Librarians Association of the Western Province and to the people of the area I was able to develop a book collection to a level that was better than what it was.

Today, after 6 hard years, I can boast of reference, lending, reading and children's sections in my library and the resource collection stands close upon 5000. There was only one assistant in 2001, and it has now increased to three which helps to give an efficient service to the members.

Apart from the general collection, I maintain a collection of Parliamentary Acts and a collection of newspaper articles.

*Continued on page 07*

---



## News and Events in LIS Community

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant** : "IFLA has received the \$ 1 million Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant to support work for libraries. The funding will support IFLA's work to strengthen awareness of the important role libraries play in developing the information society." "Our partnership with IFLA will help more public libraries provide free public access to computers and the Internet,....." said Martha Choe, Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries Initiative.

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19: 2 Dec 2007.*

### **18<sup>th</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 1-16 March 2008**

Venue: Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, UAE  
[www.adbookfair.com/abudhabi/en](http://www.adbookfair.com/abudhabi/en)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19:2 Dec. 2007*

### **Forthcoming Conferences**

#### **Libraries from human rights perspective : international conference 31 Mar – 2 Apr 2008**

Organiser : Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies and IFLA

Venue : Ramallah, Palestine

[www.rchrs.ps/aboutC.html](http://www.rchrs.ps/aboutC.html)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19:2 Dec 2007*

#### **IFLA international newspaper conference 2008 1-3 April 2008**

Organiser : National Library Board, Singapore  
[blogs.nlb.gov.sg/newspaper\\_conf08](http://blogs.nlb.gov.sg/newspaper_conf08)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19:2 Dec. 2007.*

#### **Digital Futures : from digitization to delivery 7 – 11 April 2008**

Organiser : KCL Digital Consulting Service ( KDCS)  
Venue : London, U.K.

[www.digitalconsultancy.net/digifutures](http://www.digitalconsultancy.net/digifutures)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue*

*19:2 Dec. 2007*

#### **Museums and the Web 2008, 9–12 April 2008**

Organiser : Archives and Museums Informatics

Venue : Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

[www.archimuse.com/conferences/mw.html](http://www.archimuse.com/conferences/mw.html)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19:2 Dec.2007*

#### **International copyright symposium : the book in the Internet era : copyright and the future for authors, publishers and libraries 21 – 22 April 2008**

Organiser : Amsterdam World Book Capital

Venue : Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[www.amsterdamworldbookcapital.com/index](http://www.amsterdamworldbookcapital.com/index)

Source : *IFLA Asia Oceania section newsletter issue 19:2 Dec.2007*

#### **LOEX 2008 : librarian as architect : planning, building & renewing. 1– 3 May 2008.**

Organiser : LOEX Clearing House for Library Instruction

Venue : Oak Book, II., U.S.A.

[www.loexconference.org/](http://www.loexconference.org/)

Source : *IFLA Journal vol.33 (2007)No.4*

#### **World Library and Information Congress : 74<sup>th</sup>**

#### **IFLA general conference and council 10-15 August 2008**

Theme : Libraries without borders ; navigating towards global understanding.

For poster presentation –

[www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74call-postersession-en.html](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74call-postersession-en.html)

Source : *IFLA Journal vol.33 (2007) No.4*

#### **World Congress of Information Technology**

#### **2008. ( WCIT 2008) 18 – 22 May 2008**

Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

<http://www.weit2008.org>

Source : *IFLA Journal vol.33 (2007) No.4*

### **Beirut named "World Book Capital 2009."**

UNESCO has announced the nomination of Beirut as the " World Book capital 2009" in July 2007. Beirut is the ninth city to be designated World Book Capital, after, Madrid (2001), Alexandria (2002). New Delhi (2003),Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogota ( 2007) and Amsterdam ( 2008). The city of Beirut was selected " in the light of its focus on cultural diversity, dialogue and tolerance, and its diverse and stimulating programme."

Every year, UNESCO, International Publishers Association ( IPA), International Booksellers Federation ( IBF) and International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions designate a city as World Book capital for the 12 months between two celebrations of World Book and Copyright Day ( 23 April).

This initiative is a collaborative effort between representatives of principal stakeholders in the book sector and the cities which have committed themselves to promote books and reading. *IFLA Journal 33:3(2007)*

---

## Encourage reading habits

*Continued from page 02*

The high quality and quantity maintained in the local children's literature in Sinhala as well as in English which has filled up the vacuum that there was in this sphere a few years ago are appreciative. Librarians cannot complain that there is a shortage of children's books in the market.

Consideration should be given to the children with disabilities. Reading should not be limited to hard copy books and other material. Access to braille, visual and auditory (read by digitized voice) or bimodality helps those who are handicapped.

As much as it is important to build the reading habit, we, librarians should not forget to support to maintain the habit so built. Large print reading material especially meant for the senior citizens should be made available in libraries around the country.

## HIMALI'S STORY

*Continued from page 05*

I have started a collection of photographs of Sri Lankan and foreign writers and am in the process of starting an inter-library co-operation network among the public libraries in the Beruwela Provincial Council area. As I wished to keep abreast with the development in technology, on my initiative, Colour Craft Lanka Apparel Company situated in Payagala donated a computer to my library which has assisted me to have some sections computerised.

My mission statement is " Our duty is to see that the physical and human resources of the library are developed and the resources are utilized to nurture a desire for the public to indulge in reading and to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of literature and to provide a suitable surrounding for this." As a result of implementing this statement which showed worthwhile results in 2003 I was awarded the second place as the best officer in the Kalutara District while under category of respective institutions I was placed first.

Congratulations Himali on your hard work and Good Luck in all your future endeavours as a librarian.

---

"In early days, I tried not to give librarians any trouble, which was where I made my primary mistake. Librarians like to be given trouble; they exist for it, they are geared to it. For the location of a mislaid volume, an uncatalogued item, your good librarian has a ferret's nose. Give her a scent and she jumps the leash, her eye bright with battle." **Catherine Drinker Bowen (1897-1973), U.S. biographer. *Adventures of a Biographer*, ch. 9 (1959)**

---

## OBITURIES

- ⇒ Ms Margaret Gooneratne former Librarian of the American Center, Colombo. She was a pioneer member of the Sri Lanka Library Association who served the association to establish itself and was a keen enthusiast who visioned to see librarianship established in Sri Lanka.
  - ⇒ Mrs Bernadeen Silva She extended an encouraging service to the SLLA especially to develop the Education programme without such devoted service out Diploma programme would not have developed to today's standards.
  - ⇒ Miss Heshini Witharana Final year student of the DIPLIS course and Assistant Librarian of the Colombo International School, Colombo. Her blossoming life was cruelly snuffed away by a terrorist bomb.
-

## SLLA Activities

### SLLA TV Programme for the Reading Month

The publicity programme of the SLLA for the year 2007/2008 commenced with a TV interview in the Sanda Nimnaya programme on the Rupavahini channel on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

Mr J. Ratnayake, Publicity and Information Officer participated in this programme. The month of October was declared as the Month of Reading by the National Library Services and Documentation Board.



At the interview Mr Ratnayake briefly discussed the importance of reading in relation to the development of the society and the active participation of LIS Institutions and SLLA in particular, in this aspect. He explained that correct guidance and assistance in searching and selection of good reading material play a major role in cultivating good morals and reading habits and stressed on the vital and important role to be played by the parents to guide the children to propagate good reading habits.

He further viewed that directing the public towards various social, agricultural and technological information resources would help to create constructive awareness and application of modern technologies will develop the economy of the country and enhance the living standards of the mankind.

### Our Reading Programme in the Month of Reading – October 2007

In keeping with the National Library Services and Documentation Board declaring the month of October 2007 as the Reading Month, the Sri Lanka Library Association organized a reading programme particularly in the out stations to bring awareness to the community on reading.

Three programmes were held in the North Central, Wayamba and Uva provinces. The North Central programme was held in Anuradhapura / Kekirawa, Wayamba programme in Puttalam and Uva programme in Moneragala.



**Wayamba Province** – Two seminars were held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007. The Municipal Council extended support to make this programme a success. The seminar was conducted in Sinhala and Tamil media. The morning session was allocated to school children and the afternoon session to the librarians in the Puttalam District. Mr Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Mr G M P B Gallaba, Mr. Uditha Alahakone and Ms D G A S Malkanthi were the resource persons. This event was pleasantly organized with a cultural show.

**North Central Programme** – This was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the Kekirawa Public Library. The Chairman of the Provincial Council extended his fullest support to make this event a success. Mr Piyadasa Ranasinghe, Mr G M P B Gallaba and Mr Uditha Alahakone conducted a seminar for the A, L. students of the area to enlighten them on the benefits of reading. The second programme was for the librarians in the North Central Province on the same topic. A heartening outcome of this programme was that Anuradhapura Provincial Council was willing to offer a centre to conduct the DIPLIS course with the anticipation of the SLLA providing the resource persons.

**Uva Province** – The seminar was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Mr.G.M.P.B. Gallaba, Mr. H.M.Gunaratnebanda, Mr. Uditha Alahakone and Mr. Nimalasena from Badulla library were the resource persons who conducted the seminar. The Uva branch of the NLSDB and the Badulla Public Library extended their keen support to our programme. Five schools in the district participated in the seminar on awareness on reading and the afternoon programme was for the librarians in the province and was based on the same theme. A useful outcome of this seminar was that the Local Government authorities offered to pay half the course fees of our students attached to the Local Government Service in the Uva Province.

#### If undelivered Please Return to :

Sri Lanka Library Association  
Organization of Professional Associations  
Sri Lanka Professional Centre  
75/75, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo 07

#### To :

Phone : 2589103 Fax : 2589103

E-mail : [slla@sltnet.lk](mailto:slla@sltnet.lk) Web : [www.slla.org.lk](http://www.slla.org.lk)