



SLLA Newsletter

Volume 37

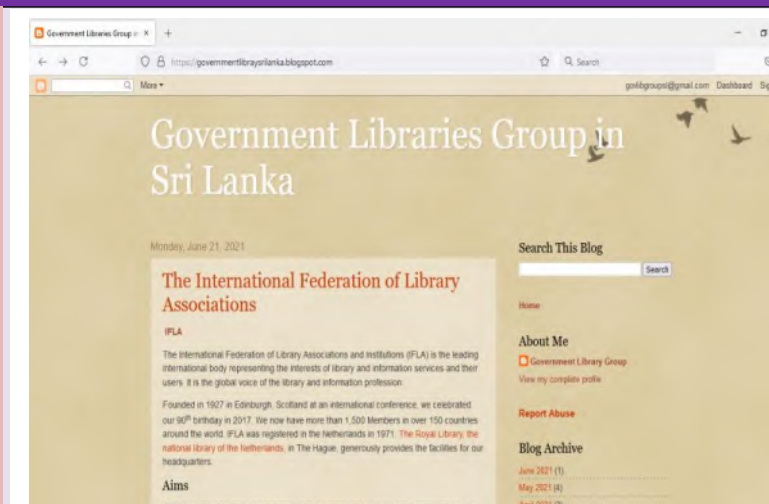
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Online Seminar Series - Open / Limited Competitive Examination for Recruitment of Government Librarians 2021

An online seminar series organized by the Government Library Group of the Sri Lanka Library Association was held on weekends from 27th March 2021 to 24th June 2021 in 8 sessions. This series of seminars was organized for the candidates who are scheduled to appear for the Open / Limited Competitive Examination for the Recruitment of Government Librarians this year. 36 candidates participated in these seminars.. Resource persons for the lectures were Dr. Ruwan Gamage, Dr. R. D. Ananda Tissa, Dr. K. R. N. Harshani and Miss K. N. Samanthi. They were involved with maximum dedication. A WhatsApp group named " Government Librarian Exam" was set up for all students who participated in the series of seminars, through which videos and lectures of all lecturers could be obtained.



<https://governmentlibrariansri.lanka.blogspot.com/>

In parallel to this series of seminars, a blog called “Government Libraries Group in Sri Lanka” was launched by the Convener of the Government Library Group, Mrs. M. K. G. Yanika Nandasena.

Webinar on “Intellectual Property and Copyright



Sub – committee of Advocacy & Professional Ethics, of the Information and Public Relation (IPR) committee of SLLA aired the webinar on “Intellectual Property and Copyright Law of Sri Lanka in the Digital Era: The Library Professionals’ Perspective” on 19th May, 2021. The Resource persons were Mr. Chanakya Jayadeva, Attorney - at- Law- Specialist Legal Counsel in Entertainment, Intellectual Property, ICT, Contracts, Media, Sports & Commercial Law and Mrs. Geetanjali Ranawaka, Director General, National Intellectual Property organization of Sri Lanka. There were 41 participants including council members of SLLA, LIS professionals and students.

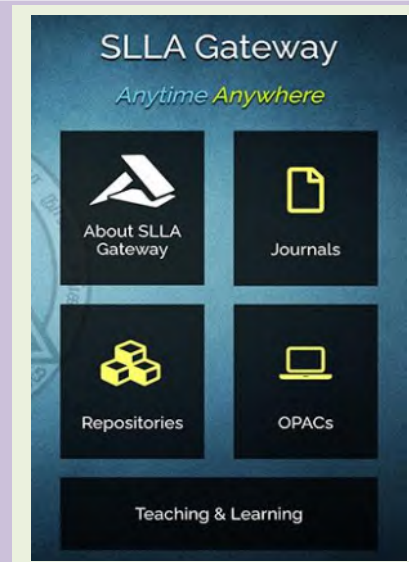
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Academic Libraries Group of SLLA (2020/2021) launched a resource portal named “SLLA Gateway” with the goal of providing expedient access to authenticated web resources through one interface.

Nowadays most activities are taking place through online due to the COVID 19 pandemic and physical access to libraries and information centers are limited. Accessing reliable information through online mode is a significant challenge. Therefore, the SLLA Gateway provides links to authenticated web resources which are useful for all information seekers especially for librarians to obtain information.

The academic Libraries Group of the SLLA developed this resource gateway as a project under COMAISP. The Gateway could be accessed via www.gateway.slla.lk



Online Training on “Google Workspace for Library Office work”

An Academic Libraries Group of SLLA (2020/21) organized an online training on “Google Workplace for Library Office Work” for the library staff in university, public and other library sectors on 06th May, 2021. Due to the prevailing situation with Covid-19 pandemic, the Academic Libraries Group of SLLA experienced the importance and need of online working culture and utilizing google products in online working environment for librarians.

This training programme was conducted in Sinhala and Tamil medium separately through online mode for free of charge. Mr. M. N. Ravikumar (Senior Asst. Librarian, Eastern University, Sri Lanka) served as resource person for the Tamil medium and Ms. D.P.C. Vithana (Senior Asst. Librarian, Uwa Wellasa University, Sri Lanka) served as resource person for Sinhala medium. 134 participants in Sinhala medium and 95 participants in Tamil medium attended to this training.

Webinars by Education Committee of SLLA

How to Supervise Bibliographies?

The Education Committee organized a Webinar on ‘How to supervise Bibliographies’ for Supervisors and Examiners of HDIPLIS I Bibliography / Index on 08th May 2021 via Zoom. The objective of this webinar was to minimize the errors of supervising the bibliographies. The Webinar was open to the total lecturers panel of the SLLA. Mr. K.K.G. Wijeweera, and Mrs. Amara Nanayakkara served as the resource persons in this webinar. There were 23 participants in the Webinar.

Cataloguing for DLIS and HDIPLIS 1

The Education Committee organized the second Webinar on ‘Cataloguing for DLIS and HDIPLIS I: How to maintain uniformity in the teaching of Cataloguing Lessons’ for the SLLA teachers and practitioners on 25th May 2021. The aim of the webinar was to make clear the mistakes that can happen in preparation of the Cataloguing entries from the students end. The workshop was led by Ms. K. Kamalambikai. About 09 lecturers participated in the online workshop.

Classification for DLIS and HDIPLIS 1

The Education Committee organized the third webinar on ‘Classification for DLIS and HDIPLIS I : How to maintain uniformity in the teaching of Auxiliary Tables in Classification Lessons’ for the SLLA teachers and practitioners on 16th June 2021. The main aim of the webinar was to get a decision to use Auxiliary tables for the DLIS and HDIPLIS I students, how to provide assignments, assignment of moderators for the preparation of examination papers for the above-mentioned exams. Dr. R.D. Ananda Tissa and Dr. Kalpana Chandraseker led this discussion. There were about 15 lecturers participating in this seminar. They gave fruitful suggestions to overcome the lapses in the course.

Chunnakam Public library celebrated World Book and Copyright Day on 23rd April 2021. Books donated by Mr.N. Selvarajah, Librarian and Coordinator of Book Abroad were exhibited on this day. Honorable secretary, readers and well-wishers participated in this event by following the safety measures.



Training session on “Be an effective Communicator”

Speaking to communicate a message, or to express an opinion is a daily activity in a person’s life. There can be times that we all speak to motivate, persuade, influence, negotiate with or convince others; but if anybody needs to communicate effectively, it is necessary to have an effective communication process.

An effective communicator is an effective leader. With the aim of this, SLLA organized an online training session for all council members on 3rd June 2021. Mrs. Shivanthi Weerasinghe, Retired Librarian, Bank of Ceylon served as a resource person for this session. All council and Exco members participated in this training session



New projects for the development of libraries under the Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha

Activities have been initiated to develop the public library system of Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha in year 2021. As the main activity of this project, about 4 million rupees was allocated to automate libraries.

In addition, funds were allocated for purchasing books and 2.5 million rupees was allocated to purchase computers, furniture and other equipment. Further, renovation of the library buildings, and expanding the basic facilities are also included under this project.

When considering currently prevailing COVID 19 pandemic in this country, it has been planned to establish an online Learning Resource Center at the Bandaranayake Public Library to provide information services especially for educational and leisure activities of the people. There are plans to create ‘Wifi zones’ in populated areas surrounding this library.

These developmental activities are implemented with the guidance of the Chairman of the Pradeshiya Sabha Mr.Sampath Chaminda and on the advice of the Secretary, Mrs.Kumudini Gunathilake.

The main objective of this project is to develop the educational, social and cultural status of the people in Homagama area.

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) is the only professional body in Sri Lanka dedicated to training, providing support, and advocating for Librarians and Information Professionals in the country to become professionally qualified in the discipline. Being a member of this Association, he/she has the utmost ability to develop as a professional who can ultimately be a fellow of this association, which is the highest professional qualification a member can achieve to serve in the profession.

This feature article refers the significant points that one must be focusing in achieving his/her professional excellence. The SLLA membership is open to everyone who has obtained a Higher Diploma or a higher qualification in the field of Library and Information Science.

There are two steps in the process of becoming a professional member of the association. These are the non-corporate, membership and the corporate membership. The non-corporate members are the members who have been granted the membership after considering the qualifications obtained in the field of Library and Information Sciences. They do not have voting powers in instances where the opinion of the general membership is sought. The Corporate members are the members who have obtained Associateship or Fellowship of the Association. They have voting power and enjoy the full benefit of being a professional member.

The Associate membership may be awarded to any non-corporate member of the SLLA who has completed 05 years of full-time service in the field of library and information services, of which at least two years of it should be supervised service with a qualified librarian. The supervision of a non-corporate member should be by a Chartered Librarian of this association. Any Associate or Fellow member who has updated the membership up to the date of concern is eligible to use the title 'Chartered Librarian'. They can also use the suffixes ALA (Sri Lanka) and FLA (Sri Lanka) respectively.

Senior Associate Members of the SLLA who have continued the Associate membership for more than 05 years and have extended a significant contribution to the discipline can apply for a Fellowship. The applicant should provide documentary evidence of the professional achievements mentioned in the selection criteria. The **significant contribution** is measured by considering the member's contribution to the LIS profession of Sri Lanka in the following 4 areas.

- A. Library and Information Science (LIS) publications (print or electronic)
- B. Service rendered as a key officer/committee member of the SLLA
- C. Contribution to human resources development in LIS
- D. Research and innovations in LIS

These goals can be challenging, if the corporate member does not demonstrate the dedication and creativity in the field of library and information sciences. Specially, it would be difficult for everyone to become key officers of the association, as the positions are limited. Therefore, the SLLA introduced 'Fellowship by Research' category, which is only considered if there are enough applicants. The Fellowship of an organization is considered as the highest goal that a member can achieve in the profession. On the other hand, this opportunity will be helpful for the members who do not have opportunities and substantial time to dedicate their capacity to the LIS field. This is the reason for introducing the new Fellowship category.

Overall, the Sri Lanka Library Association has put forward all the potential to develop the membership and has devised a criteria to climb in the professional ladder of the LIS field to achieve their professional targets. Last year, the Sri Lanka Library Association completed its 60th anniversary and is completing its 60th anniversary for its Education in the year of 2021. Throughout this period, the developed and professionally qualified membership had been an asset to the association

References:

<https://www.slla.lk/index.php/about-slla/membership>



Dr. (Ms). C.N. K. Alahakoon
Education Officer, SLLA
Senior Assistant Librarian
University of Peradeniya



The National Library and Documentation Board conducted a training programme for the librarians and officers in-charge of the public libraries in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts under its sustainable library development programme. The main objective of this programme was to train the library staff. The training programme on Library Management including Cataloguing, Classification and basic Library Management concept were included. The programme was held at the auditorium of the ACLG office in Kilinochchi from 06 -07th April 2021. Mr. W. Sunil Director General of the NLDSB, Mr. S. Prabakaran, ACLG Kilinochchi, Mr. W.M, Aravinda, Assistant Director of the NLDSB and other resource persons from the NLLDSB were participated. There were 28 participants from Public libraries of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.

The NLDSB has made an arrangement to donate 15000 rupees worth book pack for each library. In parallel of this programme NLDSB conducted a public library visiting programme for both districts from 08 -09 April 2021 to collect the information for the requirement of library grading programme.



The “Prathirawa” special electronic commemorative volume was prepared to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Library Association and to promote the creative abilities of government librarians. This volume will be published on the official website of the Sri Lanka Library Association.

SLLA Publication Committee 2020/2021

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