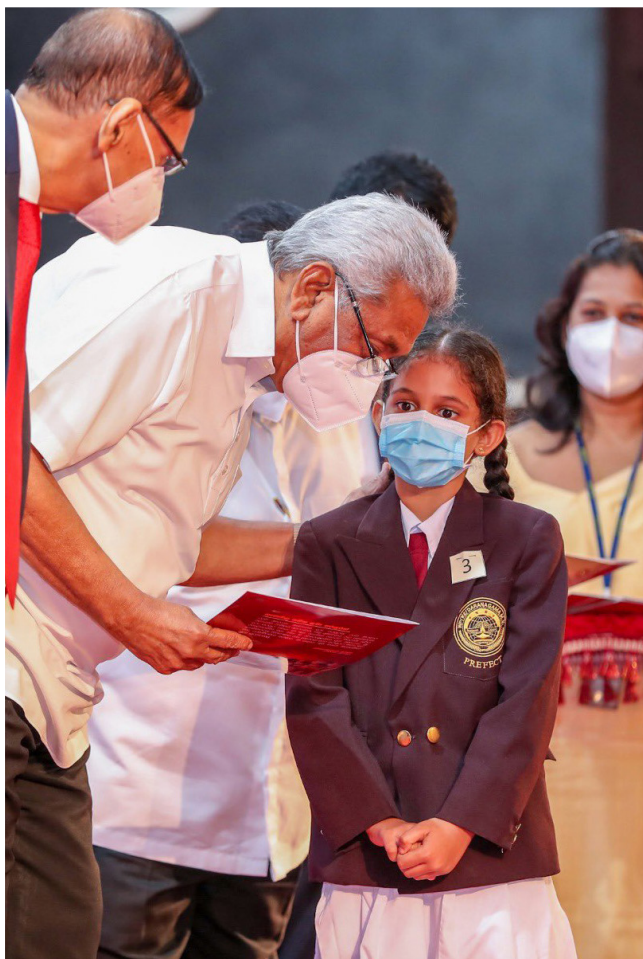


NATNET LANKA

Newsletter on Library and Information activities in Sri Lanka

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This National Programme titled *Ratak Watina Pothak* (A book that is worth a country) was launched with the objective of improving the children's creative writing and reading skills, especially during the period of school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Education and the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) jointly

implemented the programme based on a concept of former Minister of Education Dullas Alahapperuma. The Ministry of Education and the National Library and Documentation Services Board jointly implemented the programme. Students from grade 1 to 13 in all government schools, private and international

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A BOOK WORTH A COUNTRY

The first phase of awarding participation certificates among selected students who submitted entries to *Ratak Watina Pothak* (A book that is worth a country) was held on April 21st at the Temple Tress under the patronage of the President Gotabhaya Rajapaksha.

schools were given the opportunity to submit creations in the three languages: Sinhala, Tamil and English. Although the programme aimed to author ten thousand books by school children, there were nearly 43,000 submissions have been received from all over the country showing the high level of enthusiasm of students. It is expected to print 100 selected creations and present them with awards in the near future.

By addressing the gathering the President emphasized that only

quality education will develop the nation. He further added that the objective of the government is to endow a future generation that is productive to the country and that can directly contribute

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Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
NatlibSYMPO 2021
4th National Library Research Symposium

Libraries for a Better World: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
29th, October 2021

PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH FINDINGS at NatlibSYMPO 2021

We invite researchers, academics, policy makers, practitioners and students to submit their Abstracts in the fields of LIS, Social Sciences and Science & Technology

5 Main Conference Tracks
(more than 30 focus areas)

- Education & Information Literacy
- Information & Right to Privacy in a Digital World
- Green Libraries for Development
- Community Development: Health & Wellbeing
- Changing the Role of National Libraries: Past, Present & Future

CALL FOR PAPERS
31 July, 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Ms. Latha Pragasam
Member, National Commission on Library and Information Development, Sri Lanka

GUEST SPEAKER
Ms. Chandani Jayaraman
Member, National Commission on Library and Information Development, Sri Lanka

REGISTRATION
Author - Rs. 1000 (incl. GST)
Rs. 500 (incl. GST)
Participants - Free of Charge

MORE INFORMATION
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Training Programme for the Librarians of Eastern Province



A two day residential training workshop on library management and soft skills development for public librarians of Eastern Province was held on 24th and 25th February 2021 at the National Institute of Education, Maharagama.

This workshop was organized by the Education and Training Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) on the request and contribution of Management Development Training Institute of Eastern Province. The inauguration ceremony of the

workshop was held under the patronage of Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, NLDSB.

At the end of the programme the public library officers of the Eastern Province took part in a study tour of the National Library. Awarding of certificates was held at the end of the workshop under the patronage of Mr. Sonala Gunawardane, Chairman, NLDSB. There were 45 participants attended this training programme. This would help them to serve better to their community.

Continued from page 1

to the country's economy. President Rajapaksa also said that it is essential to make the children read more books with the intention of making them productive citizens who love the country and the world. The President symbolically awarded certificates to 30 students representing the nine provinces.

Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Peiris and Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma were

also present and addressed the gathering. Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Education, NLDSB Officials,

zonal education directors, school principals, teachers and parents of students were also among the participants.



Editorial advice

Mr. Sonala Gunawardana,
Chairman

Mr. W. Sunil,
Director General

Padma Bandaranayake
Director
(National Library)

Senani Bandara,
Director
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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC263Gyih_Jp0sodYT3wYAGQ

Dr. Neville Fernando No More

The National Library of Sri Lanka is deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. Neville Fernando who was a well-known social worker, political figure in Sri Lanka as well as the founder of the Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital in Malabe. Dr Fernando had donated his valuable collection of library resources to the National Library of Sri Lanka in 2016.



Malini Govinnage Passed away



Malini Govinnage, a journalist and author who was widely known as a bilingual translator of Sinhalese and English passed away. Her writing style had a marked simplicity and at times intricacy. Her first translation “Fontamara” by Italian Novelist Ignazio Silome become very popular in the early 70s among Sri Lankan youth. Also Malini Govinnage has worked as the editor of the *Praleka* Magazine which is published by the National Library and Documentation Services Board during 2012-2017.

“To Future by Bus” Project launched its 2nd stage



With the objective of inculcating reading habits among school children, the second stage of bus library project was launched in Temple Trees under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha. In the second stage, 20 schools which have no library facilities were donated bus libraries. Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge, State Minister Dilum Amunugama, some other ministers, members of



Parliament, governors, secretaries of ministries, principals of relevant schools and school children also participated in the occasion. National Library and Documentation Services Board, Sri Lanka Transport Board, Manusath Derana and Sri Lanka Telecom jointly worked to carry out this project.

UNESCO Memory of the World

National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) is in the process of submitting a nomination on Mahavamsa palm leaf manuscript to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register this year. An expert committee chaired by Prof. Malini Endagama, Secretary to the Mahavamsa Compilation Board has been appointed by the NLDSB for this purpose. The committee conducted a

survey in the Island and has selected a Mahavamsa palm leaf manuscript deposited in main library, University of Peradeniya for preparation of nomination. National Heritage & Performing Arts State Minister of National Heritage and Performing Arts Vidura Wickramanayake has given his consent for the nomination process of Mahavamsa palm leaf manuscript to the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Register.



World Earth Day commemorated



The 'World Earth Day' which falls on 22nd April every year was commemorated this year as well in the NLDSB premises under the patronage of Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, National Library and Documentation Services Board. Planting of trees took place in celebration of the day. Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, Directors and other officers of NLDSB participated in this occasion

Book donations

Under the book donation programme of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, 113 book packs worth of Rs. 15,000 each were handed over to the selected 116 Sinhala medium schools and 07 Tamil medium schools in Hambantota Education Zone of the Hambantota district. Several officers including Mr. W. Sunil, Director General, Mr. Maithree Jayasundara, Assistant Director (Research), Mr. Mihira Aravinda, Assistant Director (Education and Training) participated in the occasion.

Launch of Digital Resources on National Digital Library

The launch ceremony of the e-copy of the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Volume of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), Let's Read story book platform of the Asia Foundation (TAF) and Research Publications of Global Academic Research Institute (GARI) was held on February 17th at the National Library Auditorium.

Education Minister, Professor G. L. Peiris graced this occasion as the Chief Guest. By addressing the gathering the minister said that distance education is not at

all an alternative for classroom teaching. But the attitudinal change that has happened due to the distance education is very important for us. Minister further stated that therefore, the digital content on the National Digital Library which are introduced jointly by several institutions such as TAF and GARI is also extremely vital in this background. It allows the students to refer books through the internet without visiting a library said the minister.

The Chairman of the NLDSB Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, the country representative of TAF Ms. Dinesha de Silva, the Director General of the NLDSB Mr. W. Sunil, the Director of GARI Mr.

Sampath Abeywickrama and a group of people had gathered in this occasion.



Two day workshops

Series of Two day workshop on Research Methodology was organized by the Research Division of the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) and its 4th workshop was held on "Quantitative Data Analysis for Research" on 3rd - 4th March, 2021 at the NLSL Premises. It was conducted by Emeritus

Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena. The 5th Workshop on Introduction to Qualitative Research & NVivo was held on 18th - 19th March, 2021. It was conducted by Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe, Director, Regional Educational Services Division, Open University of Sri Lanka.



World Book and Copyright Day Commemorated



To mark the world book and copyright day that falls on 23rd April, the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) organized a one- day special workshop on 22 April at NLDSB auditorium. This workshop consisted of two lectures followed by a scholarly discussion. Mrs. Geethanjali Ranawaka, Director General, National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka and Dr. D.M. Karunaratne, former Director General, National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka served as resource persons of the workshop.

During the scholarly discussion held at the end of the programme, writers, officers of publishing institutes, media personnel and librarians took part in it and have expressed their views on issues and challenges related with copy right in the digital era.

Sustainable library development training project



Public library training programme in Killinochchi and Mullaitivu districts were conducted under the sustainable library development training project of the National Library and Documentation

Services Board. It was held from 06 - 08 April 2021 at the auditorium of the local government office, Killinochchi with the participation of public library staff of Killinochchi and Mullaitivu districts in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

Jathika Janakatha Sangrahaya hands over to the president



The first copy of the 'Jathika Janakatha Sangrahaya -Volume 1' was handed over to the President Gotabaya Rajapaksha by Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman of the National Library & Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) at the Temple Trees. This was published by the NLDSB and has been edited by Dr. W.A. Abeysinghe. This can be purchased with a special discount from the National Library Bookshop.

The ISSN International Portal

The ISSN international portal is published by the ISSN International Centre. It lists an ISSN assigned to serial publications. It is the most complete reference source in the world for the identification of the ISSN Network. It increases by approximately 50,000 to 70,000 ISSN per year. It can be accessed through <https://portal.issn.org/>

Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)

The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) is a public private partnership led by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It includes organizations that represent people with print disabilities such as the World Blind Union (WBU) Libraries for the blind and organizations that represent authors and publishers. The main goal of the consortium is to increase the number of books worldwide in accessible format such as braille, audio, e-text, large print -and to make them available



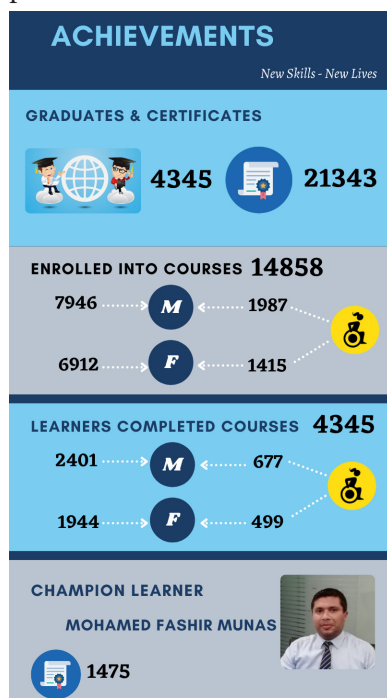
to people who are blind, have low vision or are otherwise print disabled. According to the World Health organization's 2018 estimates, 253 million people worldwide are visually impaired and more than 90% of those are residents in developing countries. The WBU estimates that less than 10% of all published materials can be read by blind or low vision people. As such the ABC supports to remove barriers in getting quality education and supports leading an independent and productive life.

Second stage of Skills Online Sri Lanka programme commenced

The inauguration ceremony of the second stage of Skills Online Sri Lanka and presentation of certificates to those who followed the courses of first stage took place in the auditorium of the National Library and Documentation Services Board on 04th of March 2021.

As there is no alternative way to continue studies of nearly 1.6 billion persons who engage in studies throughout the world and the increase of global unemployment and resulting economic crisis due to covid-19 epidemic, a method of study through e-learning is implemented throughout the world with the objective managing this situation. The objective of this project is to provide the opportunity for Sri Lankan citizens to follow 3,800 courses online in various subjects free of charge. After following the courses successfully, an internationally accepted certificate is presented.

In the first stage, 5000 scholarships were offered to Sri Lankans and therefore, Sri Lanka was able to come to first place in the world. Presentation of certificates to students who received scholarships also took place.



IFLA Elections 2021

IFLA held its first elections under the new governance structure.

At an extraordinary General Assembly on 12 February 2021, more than 95% IFLA's members supported the changes proposed by the Governing Board for a more inclusive, transparent and effective IFLA. A smaller and more strategic Governing Board with a higher share of directly elected members, changes to Professional Committee, Strategic Committees, new structures to strengthen the voice of IFLA's regions and the establishment of a new Regional Council are among the new reforms.

Election Results 2021-2023

President - Barbara Lison (Germany)

President - Elect - Antonia Arahova (Greece)

Treasurer - Perry Moree (Netherlands)

Governing Board Members -

Kirsten Boelt (Denmark), Jonathan Hernández Pérez (Mexico), Mandla Ntombela (South Africa), Ayub Khan (United Kingdom), Yasuyo Inoue (Japan)

Professional Council Chair - Adjoa Boateng (United Kingdom)

Regional Council Chair - Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (South Africa)

During the nominations and election process the National Library supported many colleagues both known and unknown. We are happy that most of them have been elected!



Dr. Premila Gamage our nominee to the Asia Oceania Regional Division Committee. Full election results is available at: <https://www.ifla.org/node/93918>

Reading Camp in Suriyawewa

Under the programme of conducting reading camps islandwide with a view of promotion of reading, another reading camp was held in Buruthakanda Maha Vihara in Suriyawewa. A large number of persons in the area participated in the camp. Attention was focused here on various topics such as literary enjoyment and library usage. Mrs. Iromi Wijesundara, Assistant Director (Extension Services), Mr. Mihira Aravinda, Assistant Director (Education and Training) of the National Library and Documentation Services Board and several other officials attended in this occasion.

E. T. Kannangara Collection



The book collection which was referred by Late Mr. E.T. Kannangara donated to the National Library of Sri Lanka early this year. Mr. Kannangara was a well known author who had authored many books and was a popular lawyer of the country. This collection would be a very useful resource for research community of the country.

Soma Jayakody Model Library

Soma Jayakody Model Library which was located at her own residence in Bandaragama, has been declared opened to the public on 19th January, 2021 under the patronage of Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma. This library consists of all sections required for a library including a



reading room and its Training Centre with seating capacity for 100 persons. Ms. Soma Jayakody is a veteran and

popular writer in this country who has handed over her personal property to the National Library



for the promotion of library services in her residential area. National Heritage & Performing Arts State Minister Vidura Wickramanayake, Chairman of the National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB) Sonala Gunawardana, the Director General of the NLDSB W. Sunil were also participated in this occasion.

“MEET an Expert” series

The National Library of Sri Lanka has organized a series of “Meet an Expert” programmes on monthly basis.



COVID-19 and Lankan Heritage by Frances Bulathsinghala, a well-known

writer on January 21, 2021



COVID-19 and Immunity Food, Agriculture, Lifestyle and the power of Phyto-Chem-

icals by Dr. Damayanthi Perera, Nutrition and Dietetic Specialist on February 22, 2021



Women and Law: Empowering Women Through Legal Information by Rocky

Ariyaratne on March 8, 2021 – in relation to the International Women’s Day 2021



Human Animal Conflict By Pubudu Weeraratne, a well-known environmentalist on April 22, 2021- in

relation to the Earth Day 2021

Appreciation of National Library Officers - 2020



Chaminda Hemesh De Silva

This ceremony was held in appreciation of officers who rendered their dedicated service for the development of the organization during the year 2020. Mr. Chaminda Himesh De Silva, Assistant Director/ Head of Information Technology Division was awarded as the

Mrs. Neranjala Kumari, Management Assistant shared the prize of the third place. Mr. Mihira Aravinda, Assistant Director/ Head of Education & Training Division Mr. Dhammika Gamage, Mr. Chandana Senevirathna, Ms. Erandi Dissanayake and Ms. Dilrukshi



Niranjala Kumari



Udaya Cabral

An award ceremony for appreciating the National Library officers was held for the first time in the National Library history of fifty years based on a concept of Chairman of the

National Library and Documentation Services Board (NLDSB), Mr. Sonala Gunawardana. This ceremony was held on 27th January 2021 at the National Library premises.

second place while Mr. Udaya Cabral, Assistant Director/ Conservation,

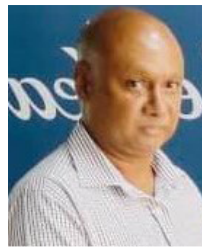
Shamali were also appreciated.



Chandana Senevirathne



H. D. Shamali



Dhammika Gamage



Mihira Aravinda



Erandi Dissanayake

Assistance for 31 Authors

Signing of agreements with 31 authors whose books were approved in year 2020 under the Publication Assistance Project implemented by the Publication and Book Development Division of the National Library and Documentation Services Board. This event took place on 05th April 2020 in NLDSB premises with the participation of Mr. Sonala Gunawardana, Chairman, NLDSB. The Publication Assistance Project implemented by the NLDSB is a highly regarded programme that has been supporting

both budding as well as veteran authors in the country since 1984.

