

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Report of the Council
April 1990 - March 1991

Professional Centre,
275/75 Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.
SRI LANKA

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Report of the Council for the year 1990/91

Introduction

In the year 1990/91, much has been achieved by the Sri Lanka Library Association and in the field of Library and Information Science in Sri Lanka.

This year we have started a scheme of recognition of Library and Information personnel who have made outstanding contributions in their field in Sri Lanka. This is one of the many ways of upgrading our profession.

For the first time we were able to compete with other Commonwealth countries and win the Commonwealth Relations Trust Travelling Bursary, which should give confidence to our members to compete for international fellowships.

After several years of planning, we commenced our Fellowship programme, indicating that our Association now has the capability to conduct and direct a programme at the highest level.

We have continued the scheme of providing an opportunity for at least one professional to participate in overseas training programmes, the selection being made on the basis of their contribution to Library and information science in Sri Lanka and their previous overseas travel. We are pleased to note that various sources of foreign funding are now available and more members are travelling abroad for training and for conferences. We invite these members to share their experiences with other members through lectures or publications.

In our programmes we have tried to widen and update the knowledge of our Members through exposure to latest developments presented by visiting foreign professionals and through study visits to Libraries in Sri Lanka. We have also encouraged social interaction among our members through a New Year Party.

We were happy that after a long time lag, the National Library was opened last year and look forward to its staff providing the leadership for Library and information science developments in Sri Lanka.

We are also happy that NARESA has advertised the vacancies in the Information Centre and hope that SLSTIC will be revived and serve once again as a dynamic centre.

We continued our previous policy of aiming our programmes at both the members and the users of libraries, in organising a seminar/discussion on the National Library of Sri Lanka - where valuable suggestions were made by other professionals on the resources and

services they expect. They stressed the need for timely information - a point that our members should remember in their day to day activities.

Our Association is now ready to take its place with other professional bodies and we hope that this will be recognised by the Hon Minister of Education, in allowing our request for a regular annual grant, available to other professional bodies and in appointing the SLLA President as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (SLNLSB).

We also hope that the SLNLSB will seek the views of our Association in decisions made at a National level and request official nominees from our Association for their special committees. For example, we would have appreciated if an official nominee from our Association was requested for the Committees on Standards for Public & School Libraries.

In the past year, difficulties have been experienced in filling vacancies in Special Libraries, mainly due to the poor general knowledge of applicants and their inability to communicate and work in English. Our members, especially those who have studied in the Sinhala and Tamil medium, must realise that no library can function effectively if its Library staff are weak in English - no Library can serve its clientele with books in Sinhala and Tamil languages only. It is for this reason that SLLA has planned English classes for both students and persons working in libraries.

In the past year, many of the Council members worked very hard and creatively thus enabling several programmes to be successfully completed. We would like to see more members volunteering to serve on SLLA committees, attending meetings, presenting papers, sending in news items to the SLLA. Remember that this is your Association and its future progress depends on you.

We must now look ahead to the 21st century, when Information will be a key factor, and the Information profession will be highly regarded, as other professions will be revolving round it.

Are you preparing for this - by studying the recent developments in Information technology - by computerising your libraries? If you are not, we advise you to wake up before it is too late.

Membership

During the year under review, 20 applicants who had the requisite qualifications, were enrolled as Members of the SLLA, while 16 were awarded the Associateship. (See p. 26)

Two members obtained Life Membership.

The Council approved admission of the following as Honorary Life Members:

Mr L E Samarasinghe - He served as Senior Specialist, Bureau for Development Cooperation, Unesco, Paris during the period 1961 - 1987.

Mr Felix Samararatne - At present, Director, Gramodaya Information Centre, former Deputy Librarian, British Council, Past President, SLLA.

Mr P Thambirajah - Over 30 years service at the American Center Library, at present, its Director.

The Membership as at March 15, 1991 is as follows:

Honorary Fellows	02
Associate Members	164
* Honorary Life Members	05
* Personal Members	61
<u>Total</u>	<u>232</u>

(* See p. 26 for List of Honorary Fellows and Honorary Life Members)

OBITUARIES

We record with regret the deaths of 02 Senior Librarians [Mrs P Kularatnam and Ms Malini Wijesinghe] who had rendered great service to the Development of Libraries and the Library Profession in Sri Lanka.

Mrs P Kularatnam - A pioneer member of the SLLA, she served as Vice-President, during the period 1964 - 1966 and as Treasurer during the period 1970 - 1972 and 1975. As Treasurer, Mrs Kularatnam introduced a Bookkeeping and Accounting system to SLLA. She also devoted much of her time to teaching of Librarianship, as Part-time Lecturer in Cataloguing for the First year through to the Final Year level courses. She initiated and conducted the Diploma in Library and Information Science Course at the University of Colombo and laid the foundation for a Masters Degree programme at University of Colombo.

Mrs Kularatnam was Librarian, University of Colombo, when she retired from service in 1988.

Mrs Malini Wijesinghe - Mrs Wijesinghe served as Lecturer in Classification for a number of years, both for the SLLA courses and the University of Colombo Diploma course.

She entered the profession as Junior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo and was the first Librarian at the Open University, where she organised an Audio-Visual Collection.

Council and Executive Committee

During the year under review, 06 Council meetings and 05 Executive Committee Meetings were held.

Award for Outstanding Librarian, 1990

A resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, 1989 was implemented this year, with the Professional Affairs Committee drawing up the guidelines for selection of the Outstanding Librarian.

Since this was the first year this award was being made, the contribution made by the nominee/applicant during the past 05 years was taken into consideration.

The Selection Panel comprised:

Miss C L M Nethsingha	(President)
Mr S M Kamaldeen	(Vice President)
Mr J Lankage	(Vice President)
Mrs S M de Alwis	(General Secretary)

The SLLA is happy to announce the unanimous selection of Mr Harrison Perera, Librarian, British Council, as the Outstanding Librarian, 1990. The award will be made at the Annual Sessions in March 1991.

Membership in International Organizations

SLLA continues to be a member of both the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA). Due to lack of funds, participation at the IFLA Conference and COMLA meetings however, were not possible. We hope that like in other countries, funding for a delegation from Sri Lanka to attend the annual IFLA conference can be provided by the Sri Lanka Government and that this could be included in the annual budget estimates of the Government.

Membership in National Organizations

As a Founder member of the Organisation of Professional Associations (OPA), SLLA participated actively in several OPA Committees. Mr A Mallathamby represented the Profession -Librarianship on the OPA Executive Council from April to September 1990, while from October 1990, Mr J Lankage represents the profession. Miss C L M Nethsingha was the SLLA representative on the OPA Forum.

At the Career Guidance seminar organised by OPA for students in Colombo schools, and held at the SLFI on April 05, 1990, Miss C L M Nethsingha spoke on the education, training and employment opportunities in the field of Library and Information Science. Mr J Lankage serves on the Career Guidance Committee of the OPA from November 1990.

Miss C L M Nethsingha represented the Association on the OPA Committee on Code of Conduct for Professionals. Extracts of the Codes of Conduct of the Library Association (U.K.) and the American Library Association, were given to this Committee.

The Association was represented on the OPA Library Committee (Miss C L M Nethsingha, Mr J Lankage, Mr A Mallathamby), the OPA Seminar Committee (Miss C L M Nethsingha), National Committee of Professionals (Mr J Lankage).

The first joint activity with the OPA was the Seminar/Discussion on the National Library, which was held on February 16, 1991. (See p. 8)

SLLA was requested to nominate a member to serve on the OPA Executive Council as Vice President, but we were unable to do so, since the rules required the nominee to have served on the Executive Council of OPA for a period of 02 years, immediately prior to this nomination.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the year under review, the SLLA besides carrying out many professional activities also made use of every opportunity for the upliftment of the profession.

Upliftment of the profession

Memorandum to the Hon. Minister of Education and Higher Education

As a follow-up of the Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on March 30, 1990, a memorandum was submitted to the Hon. Minister of Education and Higher Education requesting an annual grant and recommending greater State involvement for promotion and development of Librarianship in Sri Lanka.

The salient points of the memorandum were as follows:

- * Annual grant to the Association - Rs 50,000
- * Space - Allocation of space in the National Library Building for SLLA's educational programmes and Library
- * Representation on the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board and the Committees of the Board
- * Development of *School Libraries* and the profession of school librarianship.

The memorandum was forwarded to the Hon Minister on January 15, 1991. The Secretary of the Ministry, by a letter dated February 19, 1991, informed SLLA that the memorandum has been forwarded to the Chairperson, Sri Lanka National Library Services Board for observations.

Schemes of Recruitment of University Librarians

It was observed that SLLA qualifications are not specified in Schemes of recruitment/promotion of Assistant Librarians/Library Assistants in Universities. In fact, Library Assistants in Universities are not required to obtain any Library science qualifications and those who on their own initiative obtain these qualifications, leave the University service due to lack of promotional prospects.

A letter was sent to the Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) on September 3, 1990, requesting inclusion of SLLA qualifications in schemes of recruitment of Assistant Librarians and Library Assistants. The Senior Assistant Secretary, by letter dated September 26, 1990 replied stating that the matter will be discussed at the next Inter-University Committee of Librarians. We have been in contact with the UGC, since there was no further response, and we have been promised that the matter will definitely be included in Agenda and discussed at the meeting scheduled for the end of March 1991. We hope the members of this Committee, who are also members of our Association and Lecturers in our Educational programmes, will support our request.

Examination for Recruitment to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS)

Since Government Department Librarians had drawn the attention of the SLLA to the non-inclusion of Librarians in the categories of personnel who can sit the SLAS Examination, a letter dated September 12, 1990 was sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs, requesting that all qualified Librarians in Government Service be made eligible to sit the SLAS Examination. As there was no

response from the Ministry, subsequent to a reminder too, we contacted the relevant officials on the telephone and were informed that the Ministry had received many requests of a similar nature and that they were in the process of examining them.

To further substantiate our request, the officials requested statistical data on the the present status of the Government Librarians.

The information furnished is given below:

Statistics relating to the Government Library Service

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Librarians</u>
Supra	05 (02 posts vacant)
I	35
II	28
III	13

Service particulars of Librarians presently in Government Service

<u>Name of Library</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
Technical College, Maradana	I	15 years
Judges Library, Supreme Court	I	10 years
Dept of Education, School Buildings Section	II	17 years
School of Social Services	II	17 years
Educational Publications Dept.	II	15 years
National Institute of Health Sciences	II	15 years
National Technical Teacher Training College, Ratmalana	II	10 years
Dept. of Commerce	II	15 years

At present, only the Librarian, Inland Revenue Department is eligible to sit the SLAS Examination. This appears to be a concession granted on a personal basis to a former librarian of this department, but not extended to other librarians with similar qualifications.

Recruitment of Librarians

Advisory services were provided to the following institutions on the recruitment of librarians :

National Building Research Organisation
National Design Centre
Ministry of Justice

Seminar/Lecture Programme

(a) Information for the Year 2000

A full day Seminar was held on Saturday, July 14, 1990, on the theme "Information for the Year 2000" to commemorate the United Nations designated *International Literacy Year*. The programme co-sponsored by the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) was held at the SLFI with Hon Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Education and Higher Education as Chief Guest.

The programme included the following lectures:

Writer and Readership -
Nirmalie Hettiarachchi
(Professional Writer/Editor, Winner of the
1986 Deutsche Welle Literature Competition)

Literature and Information Technology -
Nihal Kularatne
(Senior Research Engineer, Arthur C Clarke Centre)

Information on Specialised and Generalised Education -
Rajiva Wijesinghe
(Cultural Affairs Officer, British Council)

Literacy and the Book Publisher -
Hema Amarasinghe
(Director/Publishing, Sarvodaya Publishing House)

There were 30 participants.
The Seminar was coordinated by Harrison Perera.

(b) Seminar/Discussion on the National Library of Sri Lanka

After many postponements, a programme that had been suggested in July 1989, finally materialised with a half-day programme on Saturday, February 16, 1991. This was co-sponsored by the Organisation of Professional Associations (OPA).

The objectives of the seminar were two-fold:

- (i) to make the professionals aware of the resources and services available at the National Library
- (ii) to make the National Library staff aware of the information needs of the community.

The following persons led the discussion:

Dr Lionel Dassanayake (President, OPA)
Ms Ishwari Corea (Chairperson, Sri Lanka
National Library Services Board (SLNSB))
Mr Victor Gunawarwdena (Associate Director,
Marga Institute)
Mr L E Samarasinghe (former Senior Specialist,
Unesco)
Ms Manil Silva (former Director/Information,
Central Bank)
Ms Nalini de Silva (Deputy Director, SLNLSB)
Ms Janaki Fernando (Asst Director, SLNLSB)
Ms C L M Nethsingha (President, SLLA)

The programme which was attended by over 50 persons, comprising academics/professionals, provided a forum for a lively discussion.

Lecture Programmes

The following Lecture/discussions were held during the year under review:

- (a) Implications of information technology applications in libraries and information work- A Neelameghan
(Hon Visiting Professor, Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore, India)
 - May 2, 1990 at British Council Auditorium
- (b) Our experiences in libraries in third world countries
 - Stephen Parker (Library Consultant)
Simon Francis (Librarian, University of Brunei)
 - December 4, 1990 at British Council Auditorium

Library Services Bureau

During the year under review, the following projects were undertaken:

(a) Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC)

In response to a request from the GCEC, Mr S M Kamaldeen and Mr J Lankage met GCEC officials on May 29, 1990 and subsequently visited two Free trade zones in order to provide advisory services on setting up a library for the factory workers in each zone.

This service was provided free of charge.

(b) Centre for Industrial Technology Information (CITIS)

A consultancy to study and report on the Upgrading of the Industrial Information Service of CITIS was completed and the Report submitted on July 16, 1990. The full consultancy fee of Rs 10,000 was donated to the SLLA.

On the basis of this report, we hope that CITIS will be able to get foreign assistance for financing the Upgrading of its services.

(c) National Water Supply and Drainage Board: Water Supply and Sanitation Documentation System (WASSDOC)

The supervision of the WASSDOC database was carried out during the period August - December 1990 by Mr B G N Kumarasinghe.

A comprehensive user manual has also been prepared for the WASSDOC database users. SLLA received 10% of the consultancy fee.

(d) Recommendations of the Manpower Survey (NARESA)

The Working Committee on Scientific and Technical Information, NARESA, referred the Manpower survey of Scientific and Technical Information Services carried out by NARESA, to the SLLA for improvement of the text and presentation of recommendations.

SLLA accepted this assignment with reluctance, since the report had been prepared by a fellow professional. The work has not been completed. No payment is being made to SLLA for this work.

Study Tour

A Study Tour was arranged for SLLA Members and fellow Librarians, to Kandy and Peradeniya on Monday, August 27, 1990. The tour included visits to University of Peradeniya Library, British Council Library, Kandy, and the D S Senanayake Memorial Public Library, Kandy. 43 persons joined in the tour.

A meeting of the Central Region was held on this occasion at the University of Peradeniya Library.

GROUPS AND SECTIONS

A. Professional Groups

Government Department Libraries Group

This group was very active and held several meetings at the Maradana Technical College.

Activities undertaken during the year included :

- * Conducting a survey of Government Libraries. This survey is almost complete and the report/data should be available shortly.
- * Meeting the Assistant Director (Establishments), Ministry of Public Administration, to discuss the anomaly in Public Administration Circular No.47/89 of September 27, 1989, re Schemes of recruitment of Librarians.
- * Recommendations to the SLLA Council :
 - (a) request the Ministry of Public Administration to identify Librarians as a Professional Group and permit them to sit the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) Examination. (See p. 6)
 - (b) recommend the unification of designations of Librarians in Government service.
(Since the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board will be shortly formulating Standards for Government Libraries, it is hoped that designations will also be covered in their recommendations)
 - (c) recommend filling of all existing vacancies
(In 1990 there were restrictions to filling any vacancy in the Public sector. It is hoped that all vacancies will be filled in 1991)

(d) make representations re Public Administration Circular No. 15/90 of March 9, 1990 (National Policy for Future Recruitment to Public Service, Provincial Public Service and the Public Corporate Sector) - which requires that Librarians sit an examination for promotion/recruitment
(Inquiries from other Professional bodies revealed that at semi-professional level this is a requirement for all posts. No cases of examinations being required before granting promotions was brought to the attention of the Council)

- * A Seminar on the Role and Impact of Government Librarians in the Developmental Activities of Sri Lanka was planned for February, but had to be postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

School Libraries Group

The School Libraries Group held 02 meetings during the year. Highlights of activities carried out include:

- * Preparation of a note on the development of School Libraries and the profession of school librarianship for inclusion in the Memorandum which was forwarded to the Minister of Education and Higher Education (See p. 6)
- * Organising a one day In-service Training Programme for School Librarians co-sponsored by the National Institute of Education (See p. 16)

B. Regional Sections

Central Region

The Council representative for the Central Region was elected on Monday, August 27, 1990, at the meeting held at the University of Peradeniya Library, when members of the Central Region met SLLA members from Colombo who participated in the Study tour. Office bearers for the Central Region Section were also elected on that day.

It was decided that the boundaries of the Central region be based on the Provincial Council boundaries, but should also include Talawakelle, Bandarawela, Nuwara Eliya.

The Section is currently compiling a Directory of Librarians in the Central Region.

Special Committees

Professional Affairs Committee

During the period under review, 02 meetings of the Committee were held.

The main task for the year was the formulation of guidelines and the design of an application format for selection of the Librarian of the Year, 1990.

Recommendations were also made to the Council to request the Ministry of Public Administration to classify Librarians as a Professional group and to allow them to sit the SLAS examination.

Attention was drawn to the very small sums of money being voted for Government libraries for purchase of books and periodicals.

Publications Committee

This Committee was very active during the year and had 05 meetings.

Three issues of the Newsletter were released, the first two being "in-house" productions, at low cost. A new format was adopted and a slant towards informality in both style and writing and presentation was deliberately introduced. News items, snippets of information, short articles, came under the heading *SLLA Update, Announcements, The Library Scene*. It is hoped that the Members were benefitted by the newsletter, and were kept informed of the Library scene and in contact with one another.

The third newsletter was commercially printed resulting in a better quality production, but also a delay due to the inevitable time lag between writing and printing.

The traditional format of the *Sri Lanka Library Review* was retained and its high standard as a professional journal ensured. The number of advertisements for inclusion in the *Sri Lanka Library Review* far exceeded expectations and helped in adequately meeting the increased costs of the publication. This is a clear indication of what can be achieved through enthusiastic co-operation.

A Brochure describing the activities of the SLLA, designed by Mr Harrison Perera, was printed and released on February 26, 1991.

Research Committee

During the year under review, one meeting of the Research Committee was held. As a preliminary step to embarking on a research programme,

the Committee requested the members of the SLLA through the newsletter to forward details of research papers/projects related to Librarianship and Information Science by Sri Lankans or others of which they are aware. However, there was no response to this. The Committee decided that funding for research should be obtained from external sources such as NARESA, with SLLA bearing the cost for survey type studies. The Committee considered a study on the professional levels and salary scales of librarians in Sri Lanka, after discussion with Mr N. U Yapa who has already carried out some work in this area.

Unfortunately the committee was unable to follow-up these ideas.

Library

The SLLA Library continued to be housed with the OPA Library in the OPA Centre and is staffed by a Library Assistant employed on a casual basis. The Library is used mainly by SLLA students. We hope that members will also use the Library since it is open on Saturdays and till 7.00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Copies of bibliographies/indexes submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the Intermediate examination are available in the Library. During the year under review, donations were received from the American Center, Asia Foundation, British Council, USAID and a few individuals. The donations from British Council need special mention, since it included the following valuable reference tools:

- * Chambers science and technology dictionary
- * Concise Oxford dictionary of current English
- * 7th ed, 1989 reprint
- * Environmental health reference book, 1989
- * Longman encyclopaedia, 1989
- * McGraw-Hill encyclopedia of science and technology 2nd ed 1989
- * Macmillan dictionary of the environment 3rd ed 1988
- * Macmillan encyclopedia 2nd ed, 1989
- * Roget's thesaurus of English words and phrases 1987
- * Times atlas of the world 1989
- * Whitaker's almanac 1990.

The total collection of the SLLA Library is now 880 titles, while the OPA collection contains, 020 titles.

Priority was given this year for preparing a card catalogue for both collections.

Based on a decision of the Council, steps have been taken to build up an Archival collection in Librarianship. This collection will include copies of all important reports pertaining to the development of Libraries and the profession of Librarianship in Sri Lanka. It is indeed very disappointing that although through the newsletter photocopies/originals of relevant reports and back copies of the SLLA journal were requested, there was no response from the members.

Visitors

During the year under review, we had the opportunity to meet two official visitors:

On August 1, 1990, Mr Matt King Director, Books for Asia San Francisco, together with Mr Nick Langton, Representative, Asia Foundation, Sri Lanka, visited the SLLA Library and met some of the SLLA Office Bearers and the President of the OPA.

On January 4, 1991, Mr Russell Bowden Deputy Chief Executive, Library Association, U.K. and Hon. Life Member, SLLA took time off from his vacation and met with the President SLLA and two Council members for a discussion.

Social Activity

On January 5, 1991, for the first time, a New year Party was organised for the SLLA members and their guests, at the SLAAS Auditorium. Over 40 persons joined in the fun, games and sing-song.

Donations were received from Ceylinco Travels, Nestle Lanka, Shaw Wallace, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Air Lanka, Upali Newspapers, K.V.G. de Silva & Sons (Colombo), Lake House Bookshop, Library Subscription Services, Academic Book Service, Pure Beverages, Haytech, Jones Overseas, Manmark Associates, Institute of Vocational Education and Blackwood Hodge.

The gifts were awarded as prizes on the entrance ticket draw, games and bails competition.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Restructuring Tertiary Education

Miss C L M Nethsingha, President represented the Association on the University Grants Commission Sub-Committee on Restructuring Tertiary Education. Meetings were held on December 26, 1990, January 10 and January 24, 1991.

The draft document for discussion was prepared by the President and the draft course content was also prepared by the President, on the basis of the curricula of:

- (i) Sri Lanka Library Association
- (ii) University of Kelaniya
- (iii) College of Library and Information Science,
University of Maryland
- (iv) Seminar topics, University of Loughborough

(ii), (iii) and (iv) were given by Mr P Ranasinghe Actg Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya./

This programme envisages the introduction of Library and Information Science in Regional Colleges of the University System. The education programmes, it is hoped, will be jointly organised by the Sri Lanka Library Association and the University of Kelaniya. We also hope that our Association will be awarded a contract for running the courses.

Training Course for Librarians in the Plantation Areas

The first in a series of training programmes co-sponsored by the SLLA, Ceylon Workers Congress, Asian American Free Labour Institute and the Ministry of Hindu Religious & Cultural Affairs was held from November 17 - 18, 1990 at the Workers Education, Koggala. Hon P P Devaraj, Minister for Hindu Religious & Cultural Affairs addressed the participants at the conclusion of the seminar and awarded the certificates. This programme was coordinated by Mr S M Kamaldeen with Mr S Rubasingham and Mr M B M Fairouz acting as resource persons. There were twenty two participants.

The second training programme in this series was held on March 9-10, 1991, also at Koggala. It is expected to continue this training.

In-Service Training Programme for School Librarians

A one day In-service training programme for School Librarians co-sponsored by the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the School Libraries Section of the SLLA was held on Friday, February 22, 1991 at the NIE auditorium, Maharagama.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr (Mrs) T Kariyasam, Director-General, NIE, Thirty seven school librarians from various parts of the country participated.

The following lectures were delivered:

School library services - Nanda Wanasundera
(Head Librarian, Overseas Childrens School)

Resource sharing - Harrison Perera (Librarian, British Council)

Library routines and low-cost material -
Deepali Talagala (Project Officer, NIE)

Standards for school libraries -
H M Gunaratne Banda (Actg Assistant Director, SLNLSB)

The programme was coordinated by Deepali Talagala

Commonwealth Relations Trust Travelling Bursary

We are pleased to announce the award of the Commonwealth Relations Trust Travelling Bursary, 1991 to Ms Ira Mudannayake, Asst. Librarian, Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya.

Mrs Mudannayake was selected by the SLLA as a promising Librarian who will benefit from the award and disseminate the knowledge gained to her colleagues and to students.

The award entails attendance at the annual International Graduate Information Studies School, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, U.K., for two months and a project for one month.

This is the first time that an SLLA nominee has won this prestigious award.

SLLA Education Programme 1990/91

Objectives for 1990/91 programme were

- * to review syllabi in the light of current international trends and new national needs.
- * to develop practical skills in information access and retrieval.
- * to introduce English Language Teaching (ELT) facilities for the professionals/students.
- * to explore and obtain international/national assistance in training professionals.
- * to complete the Lecture Module of the Fellowship Programme.

The Council approved the following professionals for the Education Committee to assist the Education Officer/Assistant Education Officer:

Mr S M Kamaldeen
Mr S Rubasingam
Mr Upali Yapa
Mr J Lankage
Mr P Vidanapathirana
Mrs Nanda Wanasundera
Ms Nalini de Silva
Ms P Pararajasingam
Ms K Peiris
Ms D Diyasena

Courses: Regular First Year (Colombo/ Kandy/ Jaffna/ Galle), Intermediate (Colombo/ Kandy/ Jaffna) and Final Level (Colombo) courses were conducted throughout the year. Due to ethnic unrest, since June 1990, courses were disrupted in Jaffna. "Computers in Libraries" course was repeated twice during 1990/91 due to heavy demand.

Examinations:

First (June/March) Intermediate (April/ Oct) and Final Year (Nov) Examinations were conducted on schedule at respective centers.

Lecture Venues:

Lectures in Kandy were held at D S Senanayake Memorial Public Library and the British Council as the normal venue, Dharmaraja Primary School, was taken as a rehabilitation centre. In Colombo we were fortunate to obtain facilities at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies since September 1991. Vidyaloka Vidyalaya became the new venue in Galle.

Fellowship Programme:

Lecture module of the Fellowship Programme commenced with effect from 20th May at the OPA Centre Auditorium. 30 hours of lectures were given by the following professionals covering Management Techniques, Information Technology and Research Methodology. The lecture module was completed in September Mr Gamini de Silva, Co-ordinator organised 2 professional seminars in December/February providing facilities for the Fellowship candidates to forward their research papers and discuss their views with colleagues and leading professionals/subject specialists.

Mrs S Jayasuriya (University of Colombo)
Mr I V Edirisinghe (University of Colombo)
Dr (Miss) Ramani Jayatileke (University of Colombo)
Mr Nihal Kularatne (Arthur C Clarke Centre)
Dr R D Wanigaratne (ARTI)
Dr (Mrs) C Jayasuriya (University of Colombo)
Mr J Rajapaksha (IDM Computer Studies)
Dr G Nanayakkara (PIM)
Mr N T S A Senadeera (University Peradeniya)
Mr R A Perera (University of Sri Jayawardenapura)
Mr Upali Yapa (IIMI)
Dr A Induruwa (University of Moratuwa)
Mr S M Kamaldeen

Seminars: A full-day seminar was conducted at ARTI auditorium on 16th June on "Cataloguing and Classification". The objective was to discuss practical difficulties experienced by professionals in organisation of information and ideal retrieval methods. Mr T D D Gunasekera (NIE), Mr P Vidanapathirana (USJP), Mrs S Samarasinghe (Non-Aligned Databank) and Mr Wilfred Ranasinghe (ARTI) shared their professional views with the participants.

Seminars for Final and Intermediate students were held at the OPA Centre Auditorium on 14th October to assist the candidates to clarify and resolve elements of doubt in their respective courses.

Review of Syllabi

On 9th September lecturers were invited for a meeting to discuss crucial components of the educational programme which included teaching modules, methodology and above all possible revision of syllabi. Mr J Lankage was appointed to chair a committee to investigate and recommend practical changes to the present syllabi.

Training Programmes

- (a) For the second consecutive year SLLA obtained a British Council visitorship to UK to follow a study seminar in bibliographic information on development at Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex from 28th August to 14th September. Ms Leelanganie Wanasundara (Peoples Bank) was the successful candidate.
- (b) SLLA won places for 2 lecturers in the Asia Foundation/British Council sponsored Maldivian Library Training Programme conducted in Male during Nov/December 1990. Ms Nanda Wanasundera (OCS) and Mr Upali Yapa (IIMI) took their expertise over the national boundaries creating history.
- (c) Ms D A Illangakoon (UDA) and Mr W K M M K Weerasinghe(UK) were chosen to follow a 10 day training programme at the British Council in a British Overseas Development Administration funded Library Training Programme for middle level librarians.
- (d) For the third time SLLA has won another British Council Visitorship for a successful member to follow a course in Information Technology in Libraries and Information Systems: Effective Management 3-18 September in Leicester, UK.

English Language Teaching:

To develop English language skills among students SLLA is about to initiate a six month practical lecture series in Colombo as a experiment. Two professional English teachers will instruct on mainly on verbal communication methods at Wesley College on Saturdays. Depending on its success the new council probably will decide to expand this service to other centres.

Epilogue Compared with 1989/90, 1990/91 was a promising and productive year. We could be proud of some breakthroughs but certainly cannot be overjoyed with what we have achieved. The message of the Educational Programme was to prove that we are in the "information business". However we have to travel further down to become "people processing" and "people winning" professionals. Without the Members of the Education Committee, without the Centre Co-ordinators and lecturers and above all without your support we wouldn't have moved an inch. Thank you, goodbye and the best for 1991/92.

1990/91 Student Enrolment

<u>Course</u>	<u>Colombo</u>	<u>Kandy</u>	<u>Jaffna</u>	<u>Galle</u>
First Year	66(S) 25(E) 24(T)	55(S)	--	25(S)
Intermediate	90(S) 20(E)	22(S)	26(T)	--
Final	44(S) 18(E)	--	--	--
	----- 287	----- 77	----- 26	----- 25

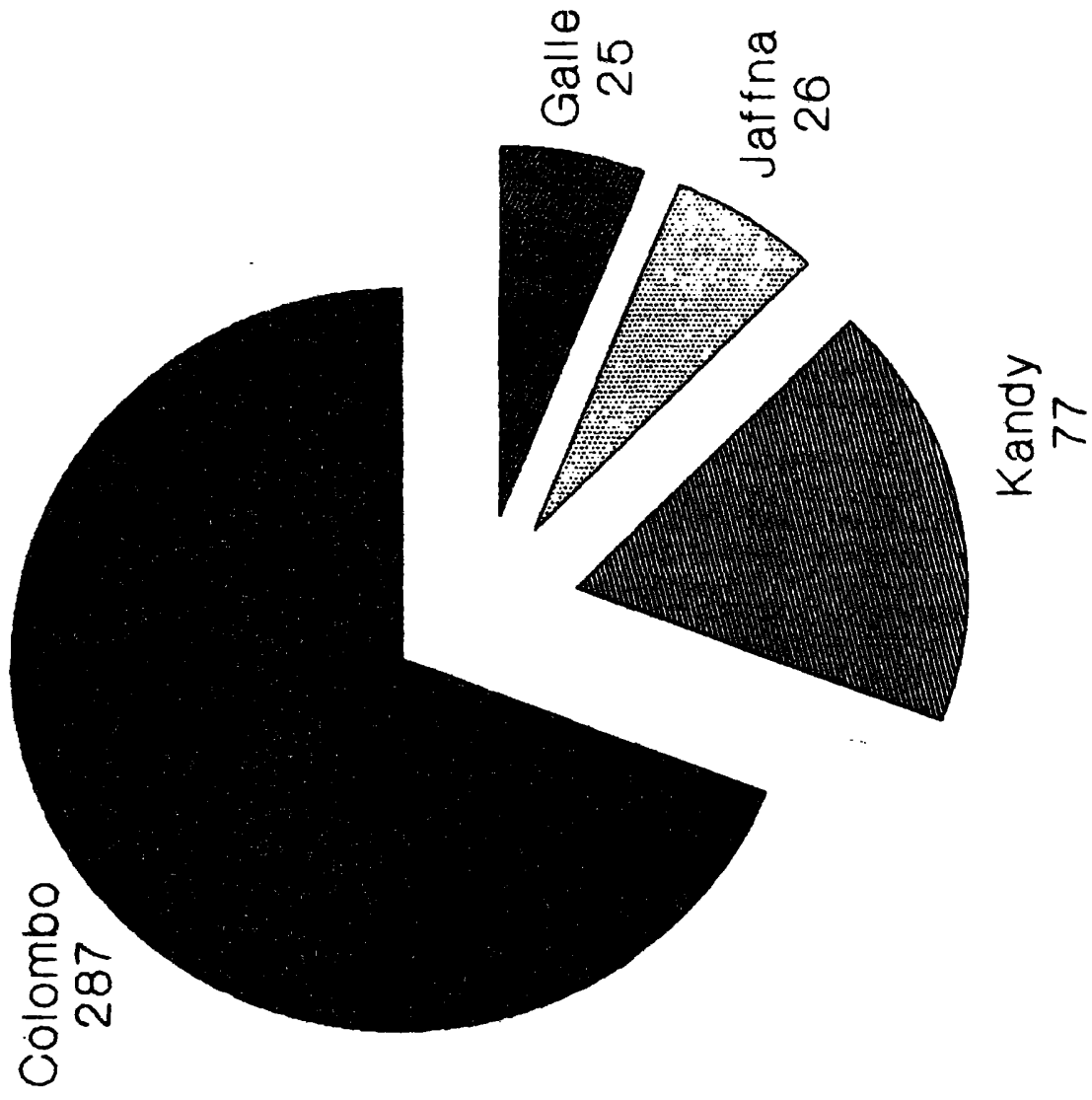
Total Enrolment = 415

1990/91 Examination Results

	<u>Sinhala</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Tamil</u>
Intermediate	43%	56%	9%
Final	37%	63%	--

1990/91 Student Enrolment

SLLA



SLLA Secretariat

Administrative Secretary	Mrs S M D R Pallewatte (till May 30, 1990) Ms V S M de Alwis (from March 1, 1991)
Clerk Typist (Grade III)	Miss J W E Malkanthi de Silva
Clerk Typist (Grade III)	Miss S K Dharmadasa
Library Assistant (Casual)	Miss G G Anoma Indramali
Office Aide	Mr K U R Perera

The year under review saw the upgrading of the office and the facilities provided to the office staff in recognition of their dedicated service.

Mrs V S M de Alwis who has over 10 years service with the SLLA was assigned the additional task of overseeing the office administration from June 1, 1990. She has been appointed Administrative Secretary from March 1, 1991.

Miss S K Dharmadasa Clerk Typist was confirmed in her post from January 1, 1991.

The staff are now paid the Cost of Living allowance of Rs 260 vide PA Circular 24/88 with effect from January 1, 1991 and the additional allowance approved under PA circular 50/90 with effect from November 1990.

Arrangements were also made for training of the staff on the BBC Microcomputer.

Tea is now supplied free to the SLLA staff

Miss Edna Malkanthi de Silva is following a course leading to a Diploma in Journalism, at the University of Colombo.

Office Equipment

The following items were purchased for the office:

A portable Elmo Overhead projector for use in the Fellowship programme and other Educational programmes

A Brother AX 450 Electronic Typewriter for use in official correspondence, etc.

A Magi-Board for notices of meetings

A BBC Amstrad Microcomputer was gifted by the British Council for use by students following the course on Computers in libraries

In a circular sent to SLLA members, the Sinclair Spectrum Microcomputer and the Atlas 12 in. Monitor (B & W) were advertised for sale. If a suitable offer is not received, these items will be advertised in the newspapers.

Acknowledgements

The SLLA Council gratefully acknowledges the assistance extended by the following during the past year:

Advertisers in our Journal
American Center
Asia Foundation
British Council
Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research
Dharmarajah College, Kandy
Donors of gifts for our New Year Party
Institute of Aesthetic Studies
Organisation of Professional Associations
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
Sri Lanka Foundation Institute
Sri Lanka National Library Services Board


Shrianjini de Alwis

General Secretary

March 15, 1991

Honorary Fellows

Mrs Ishwari Corea
Mr H A I Goonetilleke

Honorary Life Members

Mrs Margaret Gooneratne
Mr Russell Bowden
Mr L E Samarasinghe
Mr Felix Samararatne
Mr P Thambiraja

New Associates (April 1990 - March 1991)

Miss Niranjali Dias	-	Marga Institute
Miss A P Dissanayake	-	NARESA
Mrs B D L Fernando	-	Telecommunications Department
Miss M S Fernando	-	Marga Institute
Mr A S M Gunasekera	-	Independent Television
Miss H M D A D Jayasinghe	-	Sri Lanka National Library Services Board
Mrs S I D J Jayasundera	-	State Mortgage & Investment Bank
Mrs Chandra Kannangara	-	Public Library, Panadura
Mrs K I Ponnampereuma	-	Sri Lanka Technical College
Mr M C Ponnampereuma	-	Sri Lanka Medical Library
Mrs M S Rodrigo	-	Public Library, Colombo
Mrs H Siriwardena	-	Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation
Mrs W M S K Somabandu	-	Public Library, Kurunegala
Miss K S Udawatte	-	Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research
Miss K N Vithana	-	Rubber Research Institute
Mr W A Weerasuriya	-	University of Ruhuna

COUNCIL - 1990/91

President	-	Miss C L M Nethsingha
Immediate Past President	-	Mr W B Dorakumbara
Vice Presidents	-	Mr S M Kamaldeen Mr J Lankage
General Secretary	-	Mrs S M de Alwis
Asst. General Secretary	-	Mr L Amarakoon
Education Officer	-	Mr Harrison Perera
Asst Education Officer	-	Mr E K Gunaratne
Treasurer	-	Mr Anton D Nallathamby
Publications Officer	-	Mrs N Wanasundera
Librarian	-	Mrs S Samarasinghe

Representatives -

Academic Libraries	- Mr P Vithanapathirana
Government Department Libraries	- Mrs D I D Andradi
Public Libraries	- Mrs D Ratnayake
School Libraries	- Mrs Deepali Talagalle
Special Libraries	- Mr M F Hamid
Central Region	- Mrs I Muddanayake
Northern Region	- Mr K Manickavasagar
Western Region	- Mr G P J Silva

Executive Committee

Miss C L M Nethsingha	Mr S M Kamaldeen
Mr J Lankage	Mrs S M de Alwis
Mr Harrison Perera	Mrs N Wanasundera
Mr A D Nallathamby	Mr L R Amarakoon
Mr E K Gunaratne	Mrs D I D Andradi
Mr M F Hamid	Mrs D Talagala
Mr P Vidanapathirana	

Education Committee (See p. 18)

Fellowship Programme Committee

Mr N U Yapa	Mr J Lankage
Mr S M Kamaldeen	Mrs Nalini de Silva
Mr Gamini de Silva	(Convenor)

Professional Affairs Committee

Miss C L M Nethsingha	Mr S M Kamaldeen
Mrs Nalini de Silva	Mr L A Jayatissa
Ms Deepali Talagala	Mr L R Amarakoon (Convenor)

Publications and Publicity Committee

Mrs Nanda Wanasundera	(Convenor)	Mrs S M de Alwis
Mr A D Nallathamby		Mr P D Ranasinghe
Mrs Sheila Wijewardena		Mr L R Amarakoon

Central Region

Mrs I Muddanayake (*Convenor*)

Mrs D Ratnayake

Northern Region

Mrs R Pararajasingham (*Chairperson*)

Mr K Manickavasagar (*Secretary*)

Miss D Kandiah

Miss S Arulanandan

Mrs R Karunantharajah

Government Libraries Group

Mrs D D Andradi (*Convenor*)

Mr L R Amarakoon

Mrs N A D A Diyasena

Mr M B M Fairouz

Mr J Ratnayake

Mrs K I Ponnampereuma

Mrs M D S Samarasinghe

Mrs J L S Sooriyarachchi

School Librarians Group

Mrs Deepali Talagala (*Convenor*)

Mr H M Gunaratne Banda

Mrs Nanda Wanasundera

Mrs N A D A Diyasena

Research Committee

Mrs D S T Warnasuriya (*Convenor*)

Mrs Saumya Kodagoda

Mrs Deepala Talagalle

Mrs S Arulanandan

Mrs Kamalika Pieris

Mrs Lilangi Wanasundera