

SRI LANKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

FOR 1993 / 94

**March 1994
Professional Centre,
275/75, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1993

1994

1. Introduction

In accordance with consensus reached at the last Annual General Meeting, this Annual Report covers the year ending 31 December 1993. Although certain activities that took place during the early part of 1993 were mentioned in the last Annual Report, cursory reference is made to such events in the present report in order to keep the record straight.

2. Membership

At the time of the last AGM, the membership of the SLLA stood at 255, as per last Annual Report. As at 31 January 1994, which was the stipulated deadline for renewal of membership fees for the current year, in order to be eligible to attend and vote at the ensuing AGM, the total active membership was 257 made up as given below:-

Hony. Fellows	05
Hony. Life Members	05
Associates	169
Personal Members	<u>78</u>
Total	257
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Some renewals have been received even after this date.

Out of the total membership, there were as much as 70 Life Members excluding Hony. Fellows.

A moratorium extended by the Council at the end of last year produced good results. Certain members who had defaulted for varying lengths of time paid their fees with arrears thereby becoming current in their membership. As a last measure of coercing those who were still defaulting, the SLLA was, perforce, prompted to issue a final notice in February 1994 before taking a decision to strike their names off in terms of Rules 4 (7) and 18 (4). The only plausible solution to this recurring problem seems to lie in the prospect of more and more members seeking life membership.

In terms of a decision of the Council, action has been initiated to introduce a well designed permanent membership register.

3. Office-Bearers

All office-bearers elected at the last AGM, as listed hereunder, functioned throughout the period under review:

President	...	Mr. N.U. Yapa
Vice Presidents	...	Mr. P. Vidanapathirana
	...	Mrs. Nanda P. Wanasundera
General Secretary	...	Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
Asst. Secretary	...	Mrs. Srimala de Soysa
Education Officer	...	Mr. Harrison Perera
Asst. Education Officer	...	Mr. G.M. Punchedi Banda Gallaba
Treasurer	...	Mr. Anton D. Nallathamby
Publication Officer	...	Mrs. Deepali Talagala
Librarian	...	Mr. M.B.M. Fairouz

3.1 Council

In addition to these office-bearers, the immediate past President together with the undermentioned representatives comprised the Council:

Mr. Jayasiri Lankage	...	Immediate past President
Mr. L.A. Jayatissa	...	Representing Academic and University Libraries
Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen	...	Representing Public Libraries
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha	...	Representing Special Libraries
Mr. Gunaratne Banda	...	Representing School Libraries
Mr. L.R. Amarakoon	...	Representing Govt. Departmental Libraries
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris	...	Representing the Western Region
Mrs. Daya Ratnayake	...	Representing the Central Region
Mr. K. Manickavasagar	...	Representing the Northern Region

The Southern Region was not represented. At the last AGM there were no members present from the Southern Region which precluded the election of a representative. Subsequent efforts made by the Council to have a representative nominated were not fruitful.

The Council met on seven occasions during the tenure of its office.

3.2 Executive Committee

All office-bearers together with Mr. Jayasiri Lankage and Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha comprised the Executive Committee. During the period under review, seven meetings of the Executive Committee were held.

3.3 Other Committees

Traditionally several regular and ad hoc committees are appointed by the Council to facilitate the activities of the SLLA. The Committees that functioned during the period under review are enumerated below:-

Fellowship Board

Mr. Harrison Perera (Convenor)
Mrs. Sumana Jayasuriya
Mr. N.U. Yapa
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha
Mr. Jayasiri Lankage

Education Committee

Mr. Harrison Perera, Education Officer (Convenor)
Mr. N.U. Yapa
Mr. Jayasiri Lankage
Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha
Mrs. Nanda P. Wanasundera
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris
Mr. G.M. Punchi Banda Gallaba
Miss K. Kamalambikai

Associateship Committee

Mr. Harrison Perera
Mrs. Nanda P. Wanasundera
Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe (Convenor)

Publications and Publicity Committee

Mrs. Deepali Talagala (Convenor)
Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
Mr. K.G.G. Wijeweera
Mr. P.D. Ranasinghe
Mr. L.R. Amarakoon

Finance Committee

Mr. P. Vidanapathirana
Mr. Anton D. Nallathamby (Convenor)
Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe

Committee on Information Technology

Mr. N.U. Yapa (Chairman/Convenor)
Mrs. Pradeepa Wijetunga
Mrs. Lalitha Bandaranayake
Mrs. Dilmani Warnasuriya
Miss Janaki Fernando
Mr. L.R. Amarakoon

Committee on Library Technicians' Course

Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen (Convenor)
Mr. N.U. Yapa
Mr. H.M. Gunaratna Banda
Mr. Harrison Perera
Mr. S. Rubasingham
Mr. M.D.H. Jayawardhana

Professional Affairs Committee and Library Services Bureau

Mr. L.A. Jayatissa (Convenor)
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha
Mr. H.M. Gunaratna Banda
Mr. P. Vidanapathirana
Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen
Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
Mr. M.B.M. Fairouz
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris
Miss Nalini de Silva

The Professional Affairs Committee and Library Services Bureau is an amalgamation of these two committees which functioned as separate entities earlier. The Social Affairs Committee is altogether a new creation.

Fellowship Committee

Mr. W.R. Gamini de Silva (Convenor)
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha
Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen
Mr. P. Vidanapathirana
Mr. H.M. Gunaratne Banda

Social Affairs Committee

Mrs. Nanda Wanasundera (Convenor)
Mr. Harrison Perera
Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe
Mrs. Srimala de Soyza
Ms. Suvendrini Atukorale
Ms. Shivanthi Weerasinghe

Curriculum Development Committee

Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha (Chairperson)
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris
Mr. N.U. Yapa
Mr. S.M. Kamaldeen
Mr. Jayasiri Lankage
Mrs. Nanda P. Wanasundera
Mrs. Sumana Jayasuriya
Mr. Harrison Perera
Mr. G.M. Punchibanda Gallaba
Mr. L.R. Amarakoon

Terms of reference (TOR) in respect of all these committees drawn up by the respective convenors were made available to all members of the Council. These TOR were duly approved by the Council before they were so distributed. The need to have clearly defined areas of operation of the various committees prompted the Council to take this course of action.

In accordance with a decision of the Council, powers and duties of the Council as well as of the Executive Committee, as enumerated in the Act of Incorporation, were duplicated and made available to the members of these two bodies to facilitate their smooth functioning.

4. Meetings

Meetings of the Council as well as of the Executive Committee were held as provided for in the Rules of the Association. No meetings of either of these two bodies had to be abandoned for want of a quorum.

4.1 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was held on 22 May 1993 for the undermentioned specific purposes:-

- (a) Annual Accounts for 1992 and the Auditors' Report thereon;
- (b) Report of the Council for 1992/93; and
- (c) Library Standards and Ethics.

These documents which could not be adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 1993, for want of time, were duly adopted at this Special General Meeting.

5. Library Standards and Code of Ethics

A set of Library Standards and a Code of Ethics formulated by a Committee were presented at the last AGM for adoption. However, due to lack of time at that meeting, their adoption had to be postponed. Subsequently, at the Special General Meeting held on 22 May 1993, these Standards and Ethics were adopted with amendments. After being edited by a Committee consisting of Mr. Jayasiri Lankage, Mrs. Kamalika Peiris, Mrs. Deepali Talagala and Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe (Secretary), these documents were made available to all members of the SLLA.

A decision was taken at the said Special General Meeting to entrust the function of implementing these Standards and Ethics to the Committee on Professional Affairs and Library Services Bureau.

6. Membership of Other Organizations

The SLLA continued membership of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and the Organization of Professional Associations (OPA). In the case of COMLA and OPA, the SLLA is a founder member. Our President, Mr. N. U. Yapa was nominated as an Asian Regional Representative and a Councillor of COMLA during the year under review.

7. Professional Activities

Apart from its regular education programme, a comprehensive account of which is provided elsewhere in this report, professional activities of the SLLA encompassed several items.

7.1 Fellowship Programme

Given below is a summarized version of a report submitted by the Chairman/Coordinator of the Fellowship Committee.

The first batch of fellowship students numbering twenty in all was enrolled in 1990. While the first six months of the programme were devoted to lectures, the three course units viz. Information Technology, Management Techniques, and Research Methodology were completed by December 1990. The participants were required to submit seminar papers on topics relevant to their respective subject areas and these seminars reached a very high standard. Eminent librarians were invited to take part in the discussions that took place at these seminars.

By November 1992 nine students satisfied the requirements to get registered for their theses which constitute the final component of the Fellowship Programme. Five students are expected to complete their theses by March 1994 who will constitute the first eligible batch to be awarded the Fellowship of the SLLA by study and research. The Council extends its heartiest congratulations to them.

7.2 Associateships

The Council has decided to award Associateships to the undermentioned members who have fulfilled the necessary requirements. As usual, the formal awards will be made at the forthcoming Annual Sessions.

Mrs. K.G.P.G. Wijetunga
Mrs. N.S. Sangasinghe
Mrs. P.R.S. Priyanthi
Miss P. M. Akarawita
Mr. R. Krishnakumar

7.3 Information Technology

The Committee on Information Technology (CIT), the members of which are listed elsewhere in this report, was constituted with the main objective of enhancing the knowledge and skills of librarians and information personnel in the utilization of information technology and promoting library automation.

The undermentioned activities were undertaken by the CIT during the year under review:-

(1) Course on Library Automation

A special course designed to educate and train library personnel in using information technology in library and information services was launched in 1993. The course which had four modules viz. Computer Systems, ISIS Basics, Advance ISIS and Information Technology was conducted from February to August 1993. Seventeen librarians participated in the course. While a seminar for the presentation of data bases compiled by the students was held on 11 September 1993, certificates for the COLA '93 batch of students were distributed on 06 February 1994.

The second course COLA '94 was commenced on the same day with 21 participants.

(2) CDS/ISIS Workshops

Two workshops were organised during the 1993/94 period.

- (a) Workshop on Advance ISIS:
This was held from 28 to 30 May 1993 at the OPA Centre. There were 16 participants.

(b) Workshop on ISIS Basics:
The workshop was held from 25 to 27 November 1993, also at the OPA centre. The number of participants was 10.

(3) Sri Lanka ISIS Users' Club (SLISIS)

With a view to assisting libraries in utilizing CDS/ISIS software and promoting the exchange of experiences, information and documentation on ISIS, a CDS/ISIS Users' Club was organized. A seminar to discuss the objectives and the activities of the ISIS Users' Club was held on 22 October 1993 at the OPA Centre. Two types of membership were introduced viz. Personal and Institutional. Three Personal and 10 Institutional members were enrolled for 1994.

SLISIS members were offered several specialized services. ISIS Clinics were held fortnightly at the SLLA office from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. for the purpose of problem-solving. Prof. V. K. Samaranayake, Director of the Institute of Computer Technology at the University of Colombo ceremonially inaugurated the first quarterly meeting on 06 February 1994, at the OPA Centre.

(4) ISIS Consultancies

A meeting of members conversant with CDS/ISIS was convened on 24 September 1993, after due notice, in order to discuss two consultancy projects:-

(i) Computerization of the FAO Library -- A team was selected from among the members present at the said meeting to undertake this task.

- (ii) Creation of a personal data base -- This task was assigned to Mr. J. Ratnayake who completed it in January 1994.

Handling of consultancies, except those coming directly within the ambit of educational activities (e.g. setting of question papers for the purpose of recruiting staff), came within the purview of the Professional Affairs Committee. Three assignments as shown below were received during the period under review:-

- (1) Computerization of the FAO library;
- (2) Upgrading/reorganization including computerization, and training of the staff of the library of the Irrigation Department; and
- (3) Reorganization of the library of the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation (SLLRDC).

Assignments 1 and 2 were entrusted to the Committee on Information Technology (CIT) to handle.

In the case of the SLLRDC assignment, action has been taken to submit a list of names of interested Intermediate and Final Year students as the SLLRDC was only interested in engaging a person to attend to the work on casual basis.

The assignment involving the Irrigation Department library is still in the process of negotiation.

An element of transparency was thus introduced to the process of election of members to participate

in consultancies, by informing the membership of such opportunities. The Council hopes to adopt this transparent procedure in future consultancies too.

8. SLLA Education Programme

The 1993/94 Education Programme apart from its formal preoccupation of the three-tier level curriculum envisaged new paths that reflect concepts and ideas best suited to national circumstances, needs and aspirations as well as to keep abreast with current international trends. The programme was determined -

- * to develop a more focused/targeted curriculum par with the current trends in the field of library and information science;
- * to critically study the curriculum with the purpose of filling gaps especially in the area of training para professionals;
- * to be pro-active and map training needs in organizing seminars/workshops for LIS professionals and explore future training requirements.

Education Committee (EC)

To achieve the above ambitious objectives, the following professionals were invited to serve in the Education Committee:

Mr. N. U. Yapa
Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha
Mr. S. M. Kamaldeen
Mr. J. Lankage
Mrs. Nanda Wanasundera
Mrs. K. S. Peiris
Mrs. Sumana Jayasuriya (Invitee)
Mr. S. Rubasingham (Invitee)
Mr. Punchi Banda Gallaba (Asst. Education Officer)
Mr. Harrison Perera (Education Officer)

The Committee decided to draw up clear and comprehensive terms of reference (TOR) so that it could define its objectives and set goals with realistic guidelines:

Full and complete responsibility to design, conduct and implement all educational and training programmes.

- to advise and guide the Council with regard to all educational and training programmes;
- to recommend official action with regard to professional education in library and information science;
- to investigate and report on educational matters referred by the Council to formulate, up to date and relevant standards, procedures and guidelines on:
 - * curriculum development
 - * selection of candidates and lecturers for professional courses and training programmes
 - * evaluation of students' and lecturers' performance in respective courses and programmes
 - * compilation of instructional material.

Courses

The 1993/94 Education Programme catered approximately for a student population of 105. First, Intermediate and Final Year Courses were conducted in Colombo, Kandy and Galle. Due to civil disturbances we were unable to evaluate the activities at the Jaffna Centre.

Examinations

The following examinations were held during the year:-

<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Success Rate</u>
First Year	March 1994	250	--
Intermediate	Oct. 1993	35	32.6%
Final Year	March 1993	52	20%

Seminars/Workshops

Apart from the student seminars at all three levels two workshops were organized for the lecturers to obtain a feedback on SLLA curriculum regarding the structure of SLLA courses of study, content of syllabuses and project/practical work. Main objective was to make curriculum development on participatory undertaking.

A seminar/workshop was also organized to focus attention on Customer Care and aspect of Librarianship and Information Science that go along side computerisation, networking and getting on the information super highway.

Initiatives

Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) and the Library Technicians' Course (LTC) became the major 'education projects' during 1993 to update and upgrade specific areas in the education programme.

*** Curriculum Development Committee (CDC)**

Mrs. Kamalika Peiris was the Chairperson until October and Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha took over from November 1993. The following members served in the Committee:-

Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha (Chairperson)
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris
Mr. N. U. Yapa
Mr. S. M. Kamaldeen
Mr. J. Lankage
Mr. Harrison Perera
Mrs. Sumana Jayasuriya
Mrs. Nanda Wanasundera
Mr. P. B. Gallaba
Mr. L. R. Amarakoon

CDC met thirteen times during its office to plan a new three-year course titled Diploma in Library and Information Science. This course will be equivalent to a degree and provide professional training targeted for libraries and information centres. A module-oriented syllabus has been prepared and discussed. Diploma in Library and Information Science will emphasis more on practical assignments, project work, seminars and study visits.

* **Library Technicians' Course (LTC)**

The need for a special course to train para professionals was one of the many reasons which led SLLA to plan the Library Technicians Course so that a well trained library assistants will be able to manage a small library with print/non print material and IT equipment on one's own and/or assist a professional librarian in a large urban library. The inauguration of the LTC was held at the Negombo Municipal Council on 20 March 1994. Mr. J.Ratnayake has been appointed as the Course Co-ordinator.

* **DDC Guide for Students**

A guide book containing selected DDC numbers for teaching classification and for examining students at First Year level was compiled by Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe with assistance from Dr. E.W. Marasinghe and Mr. D.G.S. Dodawatte.

Building Bridges

1993/94 explored, harnessed and invited some of the professionals in LIS to assist in the three tier level course and the new IT initiatives of SLLA. The following new lecturers joined ranks:

*	Mr. T.D.D. Gunasekera	(Final year)
*	Mrs. Pradeepa Wijetunge	(Final year)
*	Mr. L.R. Amarakoon	(First year)
*	Mr. G.R. Padmasiri	(First year)
*	Mr. G.P.A.J. Silva	(First year)
*	Mrs. D.Diyasena	(First year)

Fellowship Programme

By November 1992 nine fellowship candidates completed the theory and seminar presentations to enter into the final component of the programme, mainly the completion of thesis. Five of them are expected to be eligible for Fellowship by end of March 1994.

Epilogue

One of the objectives of a library service is to provide current and relevant information for users to achieve their goals and undo uncertainty they experience in their exploration for factual information. Hence library education curriculum should be geared, targeted, focused towards this aim to produce competent librarians

and information specialists who could identify access, process and deliver the 'right' information to the 'right' person at the 'right' time in 'right' format. During 1993/94 the Education Committee realised that the curriculum and syllabus should become more relevant to the changing trends of society generally and for the national in particular, that is the urgency for pragmatism to produce professionals and not merely hypothetical standards. We have accepted the platonic truth that any curriculum needs to take cognizance for national goals and to assist their attainment and realisation.

9. Government Librarians' Group (GLG)

Mr. L.R. Amarakoon who represents the GLG has submitted a report on its activities during the period under review. Here is a summarized version of his report:-

The Committee of the GLG met on four occasions to discuss various matters relating to the welfare and betterment of the librarians in Government service and also to pursue action wherever necessary.

This Committee along with Mr. N.U. Yapa, President/SLLA, met some officials of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board (SLNLSB), in deputation, to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the "Committee appointed by the Director of Establishments to look into the service problems etc. of Government librarians". At this meeting Mr. Yapa emphasized the need for SLNLSB's intervention in this connection.

Representations were also made by this Committee to the Secretary (Information) to H.E. the President, on three occasions regarding this matter.

In addition, representations were made both to the Secretary of Public Administration and the Secretary of the Public Service Commission seeking approval for Government Librarians to sit the limited competitive examination meant for recruitment to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service. It is disheartening to record that while Clerks, Typists and allied categories in Government service are eligible to sit this examination, only one Librarian -- that of the Department of Inland Revenue -- is mentioned as eligible in the relevant gazette notification. This provision, by any standards, is tantamount to discrimination against Government librarians.

10. Publications and Publicity

The Council decided to rename the Publications Committee as "Publication and Publicity Committee" thereby entrusting it with the additional function of publicity. Its membership is listed under "Other Committees".

In terms of a decision of the Publications and Publicity Committee, steps were taken to publish two issues of the **Library Review** in September 1933 and March 1994. The cost of production of this publication has been substantially reduced as a result of the increased revenue from advertisements. The March 1994 issue is now in press.

While two issues of the **SLLA Newsletter** with an improved layout were released by December 1933, the third issue has been scheduled for release by February 1994.

The Committee wishes to thank all contributors whose cooperation made it possible to bring out the **Newsletter** and the **Library Review** on schedule. A special word of thanks is also extended to the Editorial Panel of the **Library Review**.

11. Library

The Council at one of its meetings decided that the **SLLA** library should be developed as a "model library" in view of its extensive use by our students. Towards this end, the available resources have been organized in a manner that will lend themselves to maximum use. Some of the improvements made so far are as follows:-

- (a) Reading space has been maximised;
- (b) Many documents which had remained unorganized for a long period of time, forming a sizable backlog, have been classified and catalogued;
- (c) Several books on computer science have been acquired;
- (d) Books and periodicals received by way of donations from the British Council, the Asia Foundation, and the Coconut Research Institute, amounting to a substantial number, have been adequately organized;

- (e) Several press clippings files are being maintained for the benefit of students;
- (f) A file containing advertisements relating to job opportunities appearing in newspapers and other sources is being maintained mainly for the benefit of students. This service has earned praise from them; and
- (g) A list of bibliographies, indexes etc. prepared by students has been compiled and the relevant items have been organized for use by interested persons.

In addition to the aforementioned services, files of all those members who have been students at one stage or another have been deposited in the library, at the suggestion of the President. For this purpose he has made available to the library copies of some of his own writings and files.

Action has been taken to recall long overdue books and a physical verification of books to be carried out.

The vacancy created by the resignation of the Library Assistant, Miss Anoma Indramali, as from 30 June 1993, was filled by appointing Miss W. A. Wilma with effect from 20 July 1993, after a formal interview.

The SLLA wishes to record its grateful thanks to the three institutions referred to earlier for donating books and periodicals.

12. SLLA Secretariat

The SLLA Secretariat functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. Better supervision and control were exercised by streamlining some of the procedures. It is hoped to draw up a 'manual of procedure' during the ensuing year.

12.1 Office Staff

A vacancy occurred in the office cadre with the resignation of Miss K. Dharmadasa, Clerk/Typist, as at 31 December 1993. This vacancy was filled in February 1994,

initially on casual basis, after an advertisement in the press and a formal interview. All other members of the staff were on duty throughout the year.

The government announced salary revision applicable to the office staff, which had remained in abeyance up to that date, was implemented in June 1993. They were also granted a bonus in March 1994, equivalent to a month's basic salary in view of increased SLLA activities and a better turn-out. This decision found unanimous support of the Executive Committee.

In accordance with a decision of the Council, the SLLA office was kept closed from 25 to 31 December 1993 to enable the office staff to avail of their unspent vacation leave.

The Council also took steps to provide training to the office staff in computer word processing (WP 5.1). In addition, the Administrative Secretary was provided with the opportunity of participating in a training programme on "Supervisory Management" conducted by the NIBM.

12.2 SLLA Office

A decision has been taken by the Council to give a 'better look' to the SLLA office by painting the walls and the office furniture. Hopefully some curtains will also be provided. This work has been held up due to the existing heavy load of work.

12.3 Old Files

In terms of a decision of the Council, a large number of old files relating to students has been disposed of retaining only the current files as well as files relating to present members who have been students at one stage or another. The administrative filing system has also been reorganized. This exercise was handled mainly by the Assistant Secretary.

12.4 Equipment

The SLLA purchased a second computer due to the increased number of participants in our computer course (COLA). An old computer, a steel cabinet and a manual English typewriter have been set aside for disposal and an announcement to this effect has already been made in the SLLA Newsletter inviting offers.

13. Seminars and Workshops

Given below is a tally of the seminars and workshops organized by the SLLA during the period under review:-

1. Workshop on Advance ISIS - 28 to 30 May 1992.
2. Workshop on Basic ISIS - 25 to 27 November 1993
3. Seminar on CDS/ISIS User Club - 22 October 1993
4. Seminar/Workshop on LT Course - 27 to 28 November 1995.
5. Seminar on Teaching Methodology - 11 December 1993
6. Customer Care Workshop - 26 February 1994.

The "National Workshop on Marketing of Libraries and Information Services" held on 14 September 1993 which was organized by Marga Institute was co-sponsored by the SLLA.

14. SLLA Representatives on Committees of other Organizations

The undermentioned members of the SLLA served on various committees of other organizations during the period under review as shown below:-

Mr. N.U. Yapa - Representative of Member Associations on the OPA Council

Miss C.L.M. Nethsingha - Member of the Standing Committee of the OPA representing the profession of Librarianship

Mrs. K. S. Peiris - Forum Member of the OPA

Mrs. K. I. Ponnampereuma - Member of the Committee on Library Standards for Technical Institutions, SLNLSB

Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe - Member of the Advisory Committee for the Promotion of Reading Habits, SLNLSB

Mr. Wilfred Ranasinghe - Member of the Advisory Group of the Information Network in Social Sciences - APINESS

15. Invitation from the Indian Library Association

On an invitation received from the Indian Library Association (ILA), the Council nominated Mr. N. U. Yapa, President and Mrs. Nanda Wanasundera, Vice President to attend the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of ILA held in Bangalore, from 08 to 10 January 1994. They also attended the first meeting of the Library Association of SAARC Countries (LASAARC) held on 09 January 1994, at the same venue. Both Mr. Yapa and Mrs. Wanasundera have been elected as a Vice President and a Council Member respectively of LASAARC.

The British Council provided partial financial support for this purpose and the SLLA Council wishes to gratefully acknowledge this kind gesture.

16. Social Activities

A get-together aptly named "Welcome Near Year 1994" was held on 29 January 1994, at the SLAAS auditorium. This function was organized by the Social Affairs Committee. Although the gathering was small, the function was quite successful in that several gift parcels and free soft drinks were received from some private sector companies. This made it possible for every participant to receive a gift.

17. Acknowledgements

The Council, during its period of stewardship, received the cooperation of many SLLA members in implementing the large volume of activities referred to in this report. All of them, too numerous to be individually mentioned, deserve a word of thanks.

There were also many institutions and private sector companies who helped the SLLA by way of gifts and donations during the year just concluded. Here again the list is too lengthy to be individually enumerated. We take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all of them. The SLLA looks forward to their continued patronage during the future years too.

A special word of thanks should go to the SLLA office staff for giving of their best in the performance of their duties throughout the year.