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Computerization of Union Catalogues: with special reference to Sri Lanka

N. U. Yapa

Consultant Librarian

N.U. Yapa

Mr N U Yapa holds B.Sc (Cey.), MLS (Canada-UWO), ASLLA and Hon. Fellow of SLLA. He is known as the father of IT in LIS in Sri Lanka has more than 40 years experience in library management (at Ceylon Steel Corporation, National Science Foundation and International Water Management Institute); developed the first computerized library system in Sri Lanka; took a major role in developing the education programme of the DIPLIS and has designed a library automation course for library professions in Sri Lanka. He has served as a consultant on library automation at several local and international and national organizations including: Sri Lanka Parliament, UNDP, ILO, IUCN, SACEP, FAO, NSF, National Library, CEA.

Mr Yapa has developed two integrated library software : PURNA (general libraries) and TAKSILA (school libraries) which is used over a hundred libraries here and also abroad. PURNA was presented at an international seminar organized by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1997 at Tucson, Arizona and at the World Congress of Medical Libraries in 2003 at Salvador, Brazil.

He has written more than 100 articles including two monographs; most related to library automation. Thrice President of SLLA, Mr Yapa held several positions including Education Officer, and Vice President of the SLLA and has been a lecturer for approximately 30 years.

Abstract

Union Catalogue provides information for identification, selection and location of monographs in decentralized collections. In a union cataloguing information system, the catalogue data received from various libraries are processed using the guidelines and the catalogue entries that are output from the system are merged to form the union catalogue.

Compilation of an electronic union catalogue involves three major steps: data extraction, data entry, compilation by direct merging or by reformatting or by converting. Five models are identified for compilation of electronic union catalogues; Model I- manual data extraction and data entry and automated merging, Model II- automated data extraction and data entry but manual merging, Model III- semi-automated data extraction, data entry and merging, Model IV- fully automated data extraction, data entry and merging Model V- decentralized catalogues with linking to create a virtual union catalogue. Data fields, data values, data format, display format, index format, and data file format are the areas of standardization in electronic union catalogues. Storage, retrieval and web interfacing software are required. Awareness of availability of a book in the network of libraries, support inter library lending, minimized duplication, encourage specialization, promote national acquisition policy, help copy cataloguing, facilitate literature searches, provide Backups, supply catalogue products and training in cataloguing are the benefits. History of compilation of electronic union catalogues in Sri Lanka can be analysed into four stages: initial stage, ISIS stage, WINISIS stage and OPAC stage.

Keywords : Union Catalogue models; Electronic union catalogue; Standardization; Data formats

A School Librarian Recalls, Reminisces and Evaluates

Nanda P Wanasundera

Consultant Librarian

Nanda P. Wanasundera

Ms Nanda Pethiyagoda Wanasundera, an expert in school librarianship is experienced in special libraries too. She is a B.A (Hons.) graduate of the University of Peradeniya, an Associate, a Chartered Librarian and a Fellow of the SLLA and an Associate of ALA (London) (MCILIP., U.K.). She commenced her career as an English trained teacher and changed to documentalst, counseling officer, consultant editor, documentation / information officer, head librarian and to consultant librarian and now works as a free-lance journalist and a columnist of a Sunday newspaper while working for Room to Read organisation. She holds the Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations (BCIS). Ms. Wanasundera has participated in several international training programmes throughout including the International Graduate Summer School, College of Librarianship, University of Wales in 1979. She held the position of Education Officer for three, two year terms and was a council member and a lecturer of SLLA for 27 years. She has authored several books on culture and two books on school librarianship and folk tales.

Abstract

The intention in this article is to, as the title states, recall the writer's years of service in school librarianship and evaluate pluses and minuses in her service as against definitions from the literature. A sub-aim is to enthuse those already in school librarianship and others intending to get into this most interesting and rewarding field of library service.

Keywords: School Librarianship, School Librarian, Media Centres,

Definitions

School media specialist: *Today's school media specialists are expected to wear many hats: manage, teach, collaborate, be a technology expert and forge good public relations. S/he is the manager of an elementary, middle or high school library. The position includes being the supervisor of staff, budget development, purchases, cataloger, organizer of material for retrieval and an archivist. A school media specialist is a teacher of library skills and a collaborator with the teaching staff to improve lessons, thus enabling the school to reach the learning standards required by the State. A school media specialist is up to date with the latest technology – database knowledge, Internet skills, teaching power point as well as instructing staff and students in their uses – (The Librarian in the 21st century from a report of the School of Information Studies, Syracuse, New York.) The US and Canada require teacher certification of those in charge of school media centers.*

More traditional definitions of the old but

Retrospective National Bibliography: a Theoretical Analysis

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Prof. Piyadasa Ranasinghe

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He is the present President of the SLLA. He serves as the Director of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Institute of the University of Kelaniya too.

Prof. Ranasinghe is an office bearer of several academic associations and boards in several universities. He is the founder librarian of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. BA (Hons.) graduate of the University of Kelaniya Prof. Ranasinghe holds the PG Diploma in LIS of the same university and a Research Masters from University of New South Wales, Australia. He was awarded Associateship of the SLLA in 1979. Commenced his career in the university library profession as an Assistant Librarian at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura and subsequently joined the academic faculty.

He has written many articles on librarianship, Sinhala literature and higher education and has authored several books in Librarianship and children's stories. Among several Fellowships and scholarships he was awarded he had won the prestigious Japan Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship in 2001. He has represented Sri Lanka in a number of international conferences including IFLA, from his broad experience in ICT application in librarianship he is specialised in quality assurance of higher education. Prof. Ranasinghe has to the library profession profusely by being the resource person / lecturer / presenter and trainer at many on librarianship, human resource and ICT. He is a member of the Board of Management, National Library and Documentation Board.

Abstract

Gives a general overview of the concept of Retrospective National Bibliography (RNB). Examines current definitions of the term and describes the objectives, scope and coverage, compilation process, contents and the problems associated in the production of RNBs.

Keywords: retrospective national bibliography; bibliographic control; national bibliography; current national bibliography

A precise definition of Retrospective National Bibliography is not available in the literature. Indeed, strictly speaking every bibliography is a retrospective bibliography as they all refer to already published materials. Harrod's Librarians glossary (1987) defines the retrospective bibliography as "a bibliography which lists books published in previous years as distinct from 'current' bibliography which records books recently published. Also called a 'closed bibliography', this definition is too general and weak in three aspects. First, it does not refer to 'Retrospective National Bibliography'. Second, its scope is limited only to books. Third, the term 'previous years' is vague. Indeed, many current national bibliographies record items published in previous years. For example, the Australian National Bibliography (1993, preface, p.1) records items published within the current and the preceding two years.

LIS Profession: changing role of librarian in an information technology rich environment

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H.P.S. Damayanthi Gunasekera

Ms Damayanthi Gunasekera, a Senior Assistant Librarian of the Open University of Sri Lanka has been with the OUSL for 13 years.

At present she is in charge of the reader services / AV materials and regional educational services of the OUSL library. She holds the MLS from the University of Colombo and counts to her credit several research articles presented at conferences and in journals in Sri Lanka and abroad. Her research interest is in the field of library services in distance education.

Ms. Gunasekera is an associate member of the SLA and a member of the University Librarians Association.

Abstract:

The rapid and continuing evolution of technology has invaded library functions and the ways in which the role of the Library and Information Science professionals has changed, and there will be more challenges and competencies to face by the profession in the future. IT has produced a large stock of electronic resources in libraries and created pressure for both library professionals and users to continue learning in order to provide effective services and make adequate use of new information materials. This paper discusses the many roles that the modern librarians play in developed countries today and how Sri Lankan librarians should be ready to improve the knowledge, skills and competencies to acquire that knowledge and training to meet the challenges and to support users by introducing new services to them in this changing environment, to improve the reading habits among Sri Lankans, to emphasize the value of information, to teach correct ways to access correct information easily, within the limited facilities available to LIS professionals.

Key words: Information technology, LIS profession, and Changing professional role, Sri Lanka

1. Introduction:

1.1. LIS profession:

A profession can be defined as "that is based on technical or systematic knowledge of a specific field which is acquired by its members through a prescribed course of training" (Sharma, 2001).

Librarianship was declared as a profession by H.R. Tedder at the 1880 Annual Library Association Conference (USA). Melvil Dewey has said "To my knowledge, a great librarian must have a clear head, a strong hand, and above all, a great heart" (Adhikari, 2004). Adhikari comments on Melvil Dewey's statement and mentions in this way "this has said hundreds years ago but now the environment has changed and librarian needs strong legs to go extra miles and sixth sense to perceive how to

Importance of E-government Strategy in Providing Government Information (GI): a citizen-centered perspective.

Dr. Wathmanel Seneviratne

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Wathmanel Senevirathne

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Her professional and academic credits cover up 13 articles and papers in refereed international journals and proceedings, 10 articles locally, and more than 20 presentations in national and international seminars/ conferences. She has served as examiner of research in LIS and a reviewer for local and international journals. Her research interests are community information, Remote learning support and ODL learning behaviour.

Abstract

It is also understood that right to communicate and right to access to information are fundamental to any democratic and equitable society. Information delivery by the governments had also become indispensable with concept of FOI, Freedom of Information. Conventional methods of service delivery by the governments are fast becoming inadequate hence the EG concepts, Electronic government emerged as a necessity of the modern information society. According to the survey, E-readiness of Sri Lankan government sector is seen fast improving though the sector is still not attained optimum status. The paper discusses main consideration need to put forth in planning information delivery models through EG, especially collecting all community groups into the governance sphere. Identifying community categories, readiness of GI packages and community access strategy are discussed as significant considerations.

Keywords: Community information; Electronic government; E-portal strategy; community categories

1.0 Introduction

The advent of ICTs as a fast developing enabling tool for delivery of products and services has now redefined the knowledge management within the institutions and changed the nature of deliverables and also mechanisms of delivery. It continues to affect

social political and economic landscapes around the world. This information age paradigm shift is characterized by an integration of service providers, means of access and a prepared citizenry to obtain services through it. In this context the governments and its services have not gone unaffected and the statesmanship become more and more obligatory to the general public.

It is also understood that right to communicate and right to access to information are fundamental to any democratic and equitable society

The Role of the Library in an e-Learning Environment

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She obtained her B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in 1978 and M.Phil. in Chemistry in 1983 from the University of Peradeniya, M A in Library and Information Sciences from University of London and Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science from University College London in 1991. She was awarded WHO Fellowships in 1997 and 2003 and was awarded Research Fellowship by the University of Brunei Darussalam in 2005.

Ms. Perera has over 22 years of experience in academic librarianship. She is an Associate member of the SLA.

Abstract

Libraries are educational in purpose and have always played an important role in the realization of educational principles. These institutes have been a support system for educators, providing resource materials and services for their teaching, learning and research purposes in all levels. The paper discusses how the position of the libraries has changed in an e-learning environment. It addresses issues such as what is meant by "e-learning" and what its requirements in a library situation, how can it be pursued and managed in the library environment.

Further, the functionality of a library if it caters for an e-learning community, what are the needs and expectations of users of such a community and how the e-learning resources and services should be formulated to meet these needs, are discussed.

Keywords: e-learning, digital library, e-learning environment, resource

content, resource centre, e-learning information services, e-learning library

Introduction

Libraries have been educational in purpose and have played an important role in the learning process of the humankind at all levels. These institutions have been one of the primary sources used by teachers and learners to search and obtain the required learning materials. Therefore, irrespective of its kind whether it is a school library or university library or a library of any other learning institution, the library has been a good supporting system in the delivery of education. It is evident that advancement in Information Communication Technologies has brought about dramatic changes in the process of teaching /learning, resulting in changes undergoing in all education related environments. It is no exception for libraries that they ought to reposition themselves towards a sustainable future with development in the delivery of their services. The contribution made by the library to educational activities was not recognised proportionally in the past though it is the primary source of information in the process of knowledge accumulation. The situation has

1911-1949 වන ජනරජ කාලීන චක්‍රවල : අංකිතකරණ අත්දැකීම්

එන් මං, ප්‍රධාන පුස්තකාලය, චූනන් සරසවිය, මහජන වනය
රුවන් ගමයේ, තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණ කොටස, චූනන් සරසවිය, මහජන වනය
ශ්‍රී ලංකාව, ඉංජිනේරු පාසල, චූනන් සරසවිය, මහජන වනය

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කාර්යය

වර්ෂ 1911-1949 කාලය අතරතුර, වනයේ ප්‍රකාශයට පත් වූ පොත් පත් තැන්පත්වන්නේ වන ජනරජ චක්‍රවල කමිණි, එහි තෝරාගත් කොටසක් අංකිතකරණයට (digitize) බඳුන් කරන ලද 'වන අලංකාර අංකිත අධ්‍යයන-පුස්තකාලය' වන පුරා විනයය, ඉතා විධිමත් ක්‍රමවත් විනයප්‍රවේශයක් වූ අතර ඉන් කොටසක වගකීම භූමියේ පළාතේ චූනන් සරසවියට ද පැවරිණි. මෙහි සඳහන් වන්නේ එම ක්‍රියාවලිය ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ ආකාරය පිළිබඳ සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයනයකි. විනය මුඛයේ පවතින මෙම ප්‍රකාශන අංකිත කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාව, අංකිතකරණ උපායමාර්ගය සහ ඇතැම් අංකිතකරණ ප්‍රමිති පිළිබඳව මෙහිදී කතවීම කෙරේ. පුස්තකාල චක්‍රවල අංකිතකරණයේදී සලකා බැලිය යුතු තාක්ෂණික, පරිපාලනමය සහ විද්‍යාපණ විද්‍යාත්මක කරුණු සම්බන්ධයෙන් ලේඛනයේ අවධානය යොමු කරයි.

මූලික පද: CADAL, වන ජනරජ චක්‍රවල, 1911-1949 චක්‍රවල, අංකිත සංරක්ෂණය

1. තැන්පත්වීම

පුස්තකාල චක්‍ර සංරක්ෂණයේ (Collection preservation) එක් ක්‍රමවේදයක් ලෙස අංකිතකරණය ද සැලකිය හැකි ද යන්න පිළිබඳව බොහෝ මත ගැටුම් තිබේ. උදාහරණයක් ලෙස යෝලා දු ලුක්වේ [1] පෙන්වා දෙන්නේ වෙනත් සංරක්ෂණ ක්‍රමවේදයන්ට සාපේක්ෂව අංකිතකරණයේ පෙර හා පසු වියදම් ඉතා අධික බැවින්, සංරක්ෂණ අරමුණ සඳහා එය කොඳුම් විසඳුම නොවන බවයි.

එසේ වුවත්, විශාල දත්ත ප්‍රමාණයක් ගබඩා කිරීම, තැනැත්වීම සහ සමුද්ධරණය (retrieval) ඉතාමත් පහසු වීම නිසා, අංකිතකරණය පුස්තකාල සේවාවේ ප්‍රධානතම අංගයක් බවට පත් වෙමින් පවතී.

කටයුතු මෙසේ තිබියදී, වසර 2003-2006 අතර කාලයේදී වනයේ ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ වන-අලංකාර අංකිත අධ්‍යයන-පුස්තකාල විනයප්‍රවේශය (CADAL)¹ ප්‍රධාන අරමුණ වූයේ අධ්‍යාපන හා පර්යේෂණ පටුනු සඳහා ඕනෑම කෙනෙකුට පහසුවෙන් පුස්තකාල සංචිත සඳහා ප්‍රවේශය (access) සැපයීමයි. මේ මගින් වන මාධ්‍ය පොත් 500,000 ක් ද, ඉංග්‍රීසි බසින් පළවූ පොත් එවැනි ම ප්‍රමාණයක් ද, අංකිත කෙටිණි.

இலங்கை தேசிய நூலகத்தின் ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவும் அதன் செயற்பாடுகளும்

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Abstract : ஆவணவாக்கம் என்பது நூலகங்களில் நடைபெறும் முக்கிய செயற்பாடுகளில் ஒன்றாகும் : சகல துறை சார்ந்த ஆவணங்களையும் ஒன்று சேர்த்து, ஒழுங்குபடுத்தி, சேவைக்கு விடுவதன் மூலம் வாசகர்கள், நூலகர்கள், ஆகிய எல்லோருமே மிகுந்த பயனைப் பெறவர். வளர்ந்து வரும் தொழில்நுட்ப முன்னேற்றமும், அதிகரித்துவரும் தகவல் பெருக்கமும் நூலகங்களில் ஆவணவாக்கத்தின் தேவையை உணர்த்தி நிற்கின்றன. இவ்வகையில் இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவில் மேற் கொள்ளப்படும் ஆவணவாக்கற் செயற்பாடுகள் மிகுந்த பயனளவையாகவும் பெருந்தொகையான ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்களின் தேவைகளை பூர்த்தி செய்வனவாகவும் அமைகின்றன. இக்கட்டுரையில் இலங்கை தேசிய நூலகத்தின் ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவின் செயற்பாடுகள் பற்றி ஆராயப்படுகின்றது.

Key words : ஆவணவாக்கம், ஆவணவாக்கற் செயற்பாடுகள், இலங்கை தேசிய நூலகம்

இலங்கைத் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவும் அதன் செயற்பாடுகளும்

தேசிய நூலகம் என்பது ஒரு நாட்டின் அனைத்து அறிவுப் பதிவேடுகளையும் ஒருங்கு திரட்டி அந்நாட்டு மக்களுக்கும் அவர்களின் எதிர்கால சந்ததியினருக்கும் பயன்படும் வகையில் பாதுகாக்கும் ஒரு நிறுவனமாகும். ஆத்துடன் நாட்டிலுள்ள ஏனைய நூலகங்களுக்கெல்லாம் தலையாய நூலகவாக்கற் திகழ்வதும் ஒரு தேசிய நூலகத்தின் முக்கியத்துவம் ஆகும்.

இவ்வகையில் **இலங்கை**

தேசிய நூலகமானது 1990ல் அப்போது சனாதிபதியாக இருந்த கௌரவ ஆர். பிரேமதாஸ் அவர்களால் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டது. இந்நிகழ்வானது இலங்கைத் திருநாட்டின் கல்வி, கலாச்சார, தகவல் துறைகளில் ஏற்பட்ட குறிப்பிடத்தக்க படிமுறை வளர்ச்சியாகும். 1998ல் இலங்கை தேசிய நூலகம் என்ற பெயர், அதன் சேவைத்திறனுக்கு ஏற்றாற் போல் இலங்கை தேசிய நூலகம் ஆவணவாக்கற் சபை என மாற்றப்பட்டது. தேசிய நூலகத்தில், நூலட்டல் பிரிவு, நூல் விபரப்பட்டியல் சேவைப் பிரிவு, ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவு, வாசகர் சேவைப் பிரிவு, நூல்களைப் பேணும் பிரிவு, நூல்களைக் கட்டும் பிரிவு கல்வி, அபிவிருத்திப் பிரிவு போன்ற பல்வேறு பிரிவுகளும் காணப்படுகின்றன. இவற்றுள் ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவானது பல்வேறு சிறப்பான செயற்பாடுகள் மூலம் தேசிய நூலகத்தின் சிறப்பினை உயர்த்தும் வகையில் செயற்பட்டு வருகின்றது. இங்கு ஆவணவாக்கற் பிரிவு பற்றி விரிவாக ஆராயலாம்.

Importance of Developing Reading Habits for the Survival of the Information Society

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Abstract

Reading is an active attempt on the part of the reader to understand a writer's message. The aim of the paper is to examine the role of reading in a society that places great emphasis on information and communication technologies and to examine the factors to be considered in developing the reading habit. It describes some methods to promote the habit of reading. Reading habit in the paper means a behavior which expresses the likeness of reading of an individual. It also describes the importance of reading especially in this information society. Parents' educational level, economic level of the family, atmospheric condition of the reading environment, availability to access reading materials, language fluency, reading skills of an individual, facilities available in libraries and availability of time for reading are some of the important factors affecting the habit of reading. Parents can make reading a part of the family's lifestyle. Public libraries, schools and other educational authorities should play an active role to develop not only a reading society but also 'want to read' society.

Keywords:

Introduction

Reading is the ability of identifying and recognizing printed or written symbols that stimulate the recall of familiar concepts (Mohamed, 2003). Reading is important for everybody in order to cope up with new knowledge in the changing world of the technological age. The importance and necessity will hopefully continue to increase in the years to come. However, the number of those who know how to read but do not read enough is also increasing. We are now living in the information age. The new age is largely characterized by the development that has taken place in technology and, in particular, information and communication technologies. The convergence of telecommunications, broadcasting and computers has had significant impact on society, comparable with previous major societal changes such as the industrial revolution or the advent of the printing press. Reading today is a