



# MALA InfoZine

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The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

March 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

'Librarians with a positive attitude' has been the long time call from any of their customers. Time and again we realise that we can make libraries and their services popular, only if we have dynamic heads of libraries rather than mere policy designers. The commitment and involvement of Librarians to their profession would in turn help in Library advocacy. It is essential that many of the senior and experienced information professionals inculcate these values in the budding librarians / information scientists just as we imbibed from our professional predecessors.

I request more and more of our members to contribute and participate in our association activities to make it more beneficial and eventful.

R. Samyuktha.

## New Members

We are proud to present the following new members:

### Life

Ms. Meenakshi, Assistant Librarian, Connemara Public Library, Chennai

Ms. S. Shantha Kumar, Guru Shree Shanthy Jain Vidyalaya, Chennai

Ms. Sumuki Padmanabhan, Librarian, CTTE College for Women, Perambur, Chennai

## About our Members

### Obituary

MALA condoles the demise of Dr. R Vengan, Librarian, Madras University Library, Chennai on January 14, 2008.

## In-Charge

MALA President, Dr. R. Samyuktha has taken over as University Librarian i/c of the Madras University Library since January 23, 2008.

## Doctorate Awarded

MALA congratulates Ms. P.L. Sujatha, Assistant Librarian, Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Science University, Chennai for successfully obtaining Doctorate for her thesis on Designing of an Information Retrieval System for Veterinary Science from the Department of Information Science, University of Madras in January 2008.

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## SUCCESS STORIES

On February 25, 2008 we organized a lecture on "Public Libraries as Community Information Centres in India: An Emerging Vision" by Dr. Ajit Pyati Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario, Canada.



Connemara Public Library co-sponsored and hosted the event at their premises.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### National

23rd National Seminar of IASLIC on Library Profession - **In Search of a New Paradigm**

10–13 December, 2008. For more details please contact: Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty at [c\\_arunk@hotmail.com](mailto:c_arunk@hotmail.com)

**National Conference on Changing Dimensions in Library Resources and Services in The Digital Era** at S R M University, Chennai during April 18th & 19th, 2008. Contact Dr. P. Rajendran at [librarian@srmuniv.ac.in](mailto:librarian@srmuniv.ac.in).

The 2nd **Annual RFID 2008: Implementing RFID to Work** from June 4-6, 2008 at Hotel J.W.Marriott, Mumbai. For Delegate Registration: Arshi Khan Tel: 91-22-40820166 Fax: 91-22-28509590 [arshi.khan@informedia-india.com](mailto:arshi.khan@informedia-india.com)

### **International**

International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL 2008) on Shaping the future of special libraries: beyond boundaries organized by SLA - Asian Chapter in association with Society for Library Professionals (SLP) & Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers on 26-28, November 2008 at India Islamic Cultural Centre, 87-88, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003. Tel 011-43535353. Conference Secretariat: Mr. P K Jain Organizing Secretary, ICoASL 2008 Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, Delhi - 110 007. India Tel.: 91-11-27667463; 27666364; 27666367 Fax: 91-11-27667463; 91-11-27667410 Cell: 09899110787 Email: [asiansla@gmail.com](mailto:asiansla@gmail.com); [asianchaptersla@yahoo.com](mailto:asianchaptersla@yahoo.com)

### **Contest & Scholarship**

#### **ASIST 2008 International Paper Contest**

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) announced its ninth competition for papers to be submitted for the 2008 Annual Meeting, which will take place in Columbus, Ohio, October 24-29, 2008.

The theme of this year's paper contest is: "People Transforming Information – Information Transforming People." The theme may be addressed at either the country or

regional level issues. Please log on to: [http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/paper\\_contest/2008/CFP2008.html](http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/paper_contest/2008/CFP2008.html)

### **International Commonwealth Scholarship**

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) supports fellowships for mid-career professionals from developing countries to spend periods (typically three months) with a relevant UK host organisation in their field. Approximately 60 Fellowships are awarded each year.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2008, for fellowships which should be started by 12 January 2009 at the latest. More details at: [http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional\\_fellowships.asp](http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp)

### **News desk**

#### **Career Advancement Scheme for Assistant Librarian / College Librarians**

The Tamilnadu government has passed a G.O (Ms) No.53 dated 3.3.2008 implementing the UGC - Career Advancement Scheme for Assistant Librarian / College Librarians dated October 19, 2006 and May 15, 2007 <http://www.ugc.ac.in/policy/cas.html>

#### **Open Source Lab opened at Anna varsity**

An Open Source Lab was inaugurated at the Anna University, Chennai on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The lab has been funded by Cognizant as part of a memorandum of understanding it signed with the University. Those at the University's Department of Computer Science and Engineering see the lab as a "giant leap towards technological advancements." The lab, which was inaugurated by Anna University Vice-Chancellor D. Vishwanathan, will function on GNU/Linux and cater to the needs of young engineers both in terms of functionality and affordability. Apart from using the facility for conducting regular courses, the department hopes to use the lab for multiple projects, including developing low cost tools for engineering students, automation of activities in the department of computer science and engineering and upgrading existing technology at almost zero cost. (The Hindu, March 29)

**The Future of Reading** by Steven Levy. Newsweek, November 26, 2007

## Plans in U.K. to accommodate Post Offices in Libraries

Lancashire County Council is considering the option after 58 post offices were earmarked for closure across Lancashire. The council is looking at several options to maintain the provision of postal services, including a mooted idea to offer 'post offices' in libraries.

## Countryside libraries capture public imagination in China

Posted March 13th, 2008 by Blake Libraries. A room in a farmer's home was made into the "farmers' book house" with money from the government. The authorities also pay for all the publications.

By the end of the year, 60,000 such libraries will be built and farmers nationwide will be able to enrich themselves with books paid by the government. Each library will hold no less than 1,500 books, 30 newspapers and magazines, as well as 100 digital sound or video products. The ambitious blueprint of the General Administration of Press and Publications (GAPP), targets for 20,000 libraries to be built by the end of 2010, and each of China's 640,000 villages will have such a "house" by 2015.

**Internet Tip:** Technorati.com helps to search blogs and also provides their popularity indexes.

## Scientific Papers and Open Access

[www.scivee.tv](http://www.scivee.tv) is a result of collaboration between the Public Library of Science (PLoS), National Science Foundation and the San Diego Supercomputer Center. It is like a "YouTube for Science" featuring multimedia presentations by scientists who describe the work done for their scientific papers.

## CHECK IT OUT!

The Pennington Library, host of MALA-Srivilluputtur Chapter, has launched their website <http://www.penningtonlibrary.com/>

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In science, read, by preference, the newest works; in literature, the oldest. The classic literature is always modern.

- Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer-Lytton.

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**The Internet, These Days** by Reid Goldsborough. Interesting survey results about the trends in the internet: <http://www.infotoday.com/linkup/lud031508-goldsborough.shtml>

**Tools every searcher should know and use** by Suzanne Bell. Online magazine, Sep/Oct 2007

**Facebook 101: Ten Things You Need to Know About Facebook** by Thomas Krivak: <http://www.infotoday.com/IT/mar08/Krivak.shtml>

**What to Do with Wikipedia** by William Badke: <http://www.infotoday.com/online/mar08/Badke.shtml>

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**Nature India:** A new website highlighting the best scientific research from researchers based in India <http://www.nature.com/nindia/index.html>

## Open Source

**The Open Information Systems Journal** is an Open Access online journal which publishes research articles, reviews, and letters in all areas on the development, use, application and influence of information systems. The journal covers both fields of information science and computer information systems. <http://bentham.org/open/toisj/>

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**Highly Recommended**

**Book:** "Libraries and Google" edited by William Miller and Rita M Pellen shows you ways to give your library customers better service – using Google! The book is available at the American Library, Chennai. Call 044 2857 4223.

**eBook:** **Handbook for Information Literacy Teaching** (HILT) was written by a group of subject librarians at Cardiff University, U.K. to support their colleagues in Information Services as they developed their information literacy teaching.  
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/educationandtraining/infolit/hilt/index.html>

**Gadget:** Kindle is a wireless; battery-charged e-reader introduced by Amazon which holds a shelf's worth of books and connects to the Internet.

**Internet Insights**

**Copyleft:** The brainchild of software developer Richard Stallman, copyleft turns copyright on its head. Rather than restricting distribution of creative works, this voluntary license guarantees their propagation through a clever viral trick: Anyone is free to copy or alter the work as long as the results are likewise unfettered (The most

common forms of copyleft- the GNU Public License and its permutations-cover Wikipedia entries and a variety of software programs.) It sounds like public domain, but copylefted works remain under copyright. Violating the requirement to copyleft any derivative works constitutes infringement punishable under federal law.

**Twitter:** We all start a chat with our friends with a mundane question "What are you doing?" but in the internet it launched a revolution. Twitter mashes up elements of social networking, journaling and text-messaging to create a platform for people to stay in touch via quick updates of up to 140 characters. Registered users receive their friends' messages instantly via mobile phone, Web or an RSS-reader-style desktop application. The BBC twitters its headlines, ecommerce sites twitter their latest sale items and even the politicians twitter their lengthy campaign messages.

We welcome your contributions for our next Newsletter. Programmes organised by your library, awards/rewards received by you, your significant contributions to the field or your feedback on this publication. We are also looking forward to hear your suggestions/co-sponsorship of MALA events. Please feel free to write to us. Our Email id is [madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com)

Please encourage your professional colleagues to become members of the MALA. Membership fee is Rs. 100/- for Annual, Rs. 500/- for Life and Rs. 3,000/- for Institutional members. The amount could be paid by cash/local cheque/demand draft in favour of The Madras Library Association. The registration form can be downloaded from:<http://www.accel-india.com/mala/0700.htm> . Please mail the filled-in application form along with the cheque/demand draft to the our Treasurer Dr. R. Ravichandran, G3, Sruthilaya Apartments, Plot No.70, III Main Road, Vijayanagar, Velachery, Chennai 600 042

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## LIBRARY WATCH

### **The American Library, Chennai is celebrating 60 years of service in south India**

The Chennai American Library is celebrating its 60 years of service in south India. As you may know, the Library began in 1947 as part of the U.S. Consulate at Dare House with a collection of just 800 books. Currently the Library has more than 15000 books and subscribes to 140 print versions of scholarly journals and general magazines, U.S. Government publications, think tank reports, newspapers, video programs, movies and access to more than 30,000 journals through several electronic databases - EBSCO Host, Factiva, Lexis-Nexis, ProQuest.



All through, it has been a major reference and research facility providing access to resources over the years for the benefit of the people of south India. As part of the "60 years celebrations," the Library organized programs at several institutions in Chennai and other cities in south India. Participation in the annual Chennai Book Fair 2008 proved highly successful in promoting its resources and services and the Library enrolled 438 members at the Book Fair. The collection is strong in the areas of American studies, American literature, management, law, international relations, environmental studies, and English as a second language. With highly skilled professional staff, the library specializes in providing individualized services. As part of outreach efforts it organizes road shows, orientation programs at the library and at outside institutions, and discussions based on themes.

Membership is available to individuals/organizations such as universities, colleges, research institutions, Government establishments, corporate houses, newspaper houses and NGOs. Internet access is free for members. Institutional members will receive free publications - Book Alert, Article and Web Alert, Span Magazine, Newsletter, Bibliographies and Videographies on request. Individuals and Institutions outside of Chennai can avail distance membership. Please access: <http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/irc.html> for more details.

### **The Goethe Institute reopens its Library in Chennai**

On March 31, 2008 with an updated and selected collection and new services, the Goethe Institute has reopened its library in Chennai which was closed a few years back. The library hosts recent publications in English and German, with a fine selection of German literature, book sections on the arts, philosophy and humanities. The library subscribes to magazines on issues relevant to Indo-German cultural



relations and to selected German newspapers and newsmagazines. German language students and interested visitors will find a wide selection of study material. Grammar books, easy readers, exercise books and audiovisuals can be used to improve listening and speaking skills in German.

The library also offers a wide range of media such as audio books and DVDs. The media section in the library offers the technical equipment to listen to audio books of German literature or to watch DVDs in German and in English translation. Their collection includes Feature films, documentaries, German dance and theatre on film. Deutsche

Welle TV in the library updates the members on the latest news and trends in Germany. Details at: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/in/che/wis/bib/enindex.htm>.

**Dear Readers, we welcome write-ups with photographs about your library to include in this new feature. Please send your inputs to [madrasl原因yassociation@gmail.com](mailto:madrasl原因yassociation@gmail.com)**

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