



# MALA InfoZine

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The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

June 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In a recent interview with Prof. S. Parthasarathy, I had the opportunity to unravel a lot of interesting events. I am sure many of us are still not aware that he was 'THE' pet student of Dr. S.R.Ranganathan... as a member of UGC committee he was instrumental in drawing up guidelines for establishing university libraries and training of their personnel; he contributed in introducing documentation as an item of expenditure in the fifth plan; represented scientific documentation in Asian countries, travelled widely.....

Yes, if you are curious to know more from his childhood to the present, await the Festschrift volume to be released in honour of him next month when he would turn ninety one years young!!

On behalf of MALA we wish Professor good health and his ever motivating guidance to help us contribute to our profession.

R.Samyuktha.

## New Members

We are proud to present the following new members:

### Life

- Mr. K. Saravanan, Resource Centre, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai
- Mr. N. Ashok Kumar, Tamilnadu Physical Education & Sports University, Chennai
- Mr. G. Chandrasekar, Maha Engineering College, Salem
- Ms. Sumuki Padmanabhan, CTTTE College for Women, Chennai
- Mr. Om Shashi Shekhar Singh, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dantewada

## About our Members

A live interview of MALA President, Dr. R. Samyuktha and ex-officio President, Dr. A. Amudhavalli was broadcasted by the All India Radio as part of the World Book Day celebrations on April 23, 2008.

Our Life member, Mr. M. Ganapathy, Leader, Publication and Reprography Section, SIRD, IGCAR retired recently. As part of the program MALA President Dr. R. Samyuktha gave a lecture on 'Librarian 2.0' organized by SIRD.

Dr. A. Amudhavalli, Ex-officio President will be a honorary speaker at the fourth International Conference on Webometrics, Informetrics and Scientometrics (WIS) & 9th COLLNET Meeting to be held during 29 July – 1 August, 2008 at Institute of Library and Information Science, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. Dr. G. Krishnamoorthy, a life member of MALA and Librarian, Anna University, Chennai will also be presenting a paper titled "S & T Collaboration: a qualitative study" co-authored by Dr. A. Amudhavalli at the Conference.

## MALA at State Library Committee Meeting

Our President Dr. R. Samyuktha participated in the State Library Committee meeting held at the chambers of the School Education Secretary, Mr. Kutralingam I.A.S. along with representatives from Rajaram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and State Library authorities.

Beyond requesting the RRLF to fund MALA's programs, she used the opportunity to stress MALA's earlier request to appoint librarians in all school libraries in the State with the Education Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### National

**National Conference on Library 2.0: The Confluence of Web 2.0 and the Library Paradigm**, August 21-22, 2008, organized by Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore. More information available at: <http://www.isim.ac.in/mylib/mydlis2.0.htm>

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir (J&K) is organizing a seminar on **“Open Access Movement: Initiatives, Promotion and Impact”** from 15-17 October, 2008. The scholars, teachers and professionals and other stakeholders can submit their original research papers covering conceptual innovations, case studies, evaluations etc. E-mail to: [dlis\\_2006@yahoo.co.in](mailto:dlis_2006@yahoo.co.in)

**Eleventh National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2008)** at Karunya University, Coimbatore, India. Seminar / Conference Dates: November 4-7, 2008. Theme: “Digital Futures: Strategies for Developing World Class Libraries”. URL of the Seminar Site: <http://www.naclin.org>

**National Conference on Digitization and Digital Preservation, December 2008** organised by DESIDOC, Delhi during December 10-12, 2008 at DRDO, Delhi. Please see <http://www.drdo.org/ncddp/ncdp2008.htm>

**23rd National Seminar of IASLIC on “Library Profession in Search of a New Paradigm** organized by the Bose Institute, Kolkata during December 10-13, 2008. Email: [akc@bic.boseinst.ernet.in](mailto:akc@bic.boseinst.ernet.in)

### International

**World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council** organizing a Conference "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding" during 10-14 August 2008 at Québec City Convention Centre, Québec, Canada. More details of the Conference are available at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>

## Newsdesk

NDTV: Wednesday, July 2, 2008 (Coimbatore)  
A talking library has been set up in Coimbatore, perhaps the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu to assist the visually challenged students.



Set up jointly by the Lions Club and Bharatiyar University thousands of audio-cassettes on various subjects are available in this library and visually challenged students, especially those preparing for higher studies find this 'talking library' a blessing.

### Good response to library project

The mobile library project for ten Chennai Corporation schools in north Chennai has turned out to be a success, with about 20,000 students regularly using the facility. The project will be continued this academic year too. On Tuesday, students of Corporation Higher Secondary School on Tiruvottiyur High School spent some time with the books when the library van visited their school. (The Hindu, June 25, 2008)

A Thought: **“Showing leadership isn’t about being liked by all. It’s about doing what’s right. And what’s good.”** – Robin Sharma in the Greatness Guide.

### Join eMALA for Latest Information : Steps to follow:

Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and select Groups. By creating your own username and password Sign-Up for the Groups. Search for eMALA and again you need to fill up the form to join this particular group. When you complete selecting the options, you are already inside eMALA!



"...and you spent 5.73 years of your life deleting spam from your e-mail."

## CHECK IT OUT!

An "**Indian Librarians Forum**" (ILF) was formed as a follow up of suggestions given by Mr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, National Knowledge Commission. He suggested to form such a forum during his inaugural address in March 2008 at the International Seminar on Library Advocacy held at New Delhi. Catch up with professional colleagues at: <http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/ILF>

To understand how Web 2.0 tools (i.e. wikis, blogs, RSS, online social networks, virtual communities, social network analysis, social bookmarking, social tagging and podcasting) are being used by enterprises check them in the collective name **Enterprise Social Software (ESS)**. Useful article at: [http://www.takingaiim.com/enterprise\\_20/](http://www.takingaiim.com/enterprise_20/)

## Blog Watch

**Panel Discussion on Perspectives on the Future of Libraries:**<http://scrclclakeneteffect.blogspot.com/>

## Highly Recommended

**The Gale Directory of Databases 2008:** Vol. 1 profiles nearly 10,500 online databases made publicly available from the producer or an online service. Vol. 2 covers CD-ROM, DVD, Diskette, Magnetic Tape, Handheld, and Batch Access Database Products. Profiles over 9,600 database products, offered in "portable" form and through batch processing. The book is in the reference collection of the American Library, Chennai. Contact: [chennairefdesk@state.gov](mailto:chennairefdesk@state.gov)

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Edited by L. R. Gowri and R. Samyuktha

## Internet Insights

**Five Weeks to a Social Library** is the first free, grassroots, completely online course devoted to teaching librarians about social software and how to use it in their libraries.  
<http://www.sociallibraries.com/course/>

## Thomas Parry Library - Electronic Journals in Librarianship and Information Science

These web pages contain an annotated list of electronic journals in librarianship and information science. The list will be of use to anyone exploring electronic journals in the LIS field. Titles are listed alphabetically and for each entry a page of relevant information is provided, the accuracy and currency of links and information are checked on a monthly basis. Some entries link readers to further information about service providers;  
<http://www.inf.aber.ac.uk/academicliaison/dis/ejlib/>

**The WWW Virtual Library (VL)** is the oldest catalogue of the Web, started by Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of HTML and of the Web itself, in 1991 at CERN in Geneva. Unlike commercial catalogues, it is run by a loose confederation of volunteers, who compile pages of key links for particular areas in which they are expert. You may access it at: <http://vlib.org/admin/AboutVL>

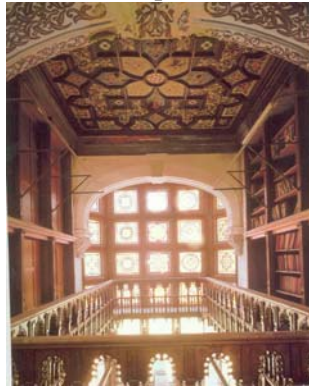
We welcome your contributions for our next Newsletter. Programmes organised by your library, awards/rewards received by you, your significant contributions to the field or simply your feedback on this publication. We are also looking forward to hear your suggestions/co-sponsorship of MALA events. Please 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 Secretary L. R. Gowri, 304, Sylvan Castle, 13 Nerkundrum Main Road, Chinmaya Nagar, Chennai 600 092.

## Connemara Public Library (CPL)

CPL was formally opened 111 years ago on 5 December 1896. The Library became the State-Central Library with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1950 under the provision of Tamilnadu Public Libraries Act, 1948. From 10<sup>th</sup> September 1955, it became one of the Four Depositories for Indian Publications under the Provision of Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act of 1954, as amended. In 1955, this Library became UNESCO Information Centre to serve as Depository for selected Publications of UN and its allied agencies. It also serves as Depository for Asian Development Bank Publications since 1992. Furthermore, a good number of books are added every year by purchasing from the funds made available by the State Government Budget. At present the stock consists of 6.28 lakhs including bound periodicals. The total staff strength is 112. Membership is open to any resident of Chennai and its vicinity who is 15 years of age and above. Every member can borrow maximum of six books for a period of fourteen days by depositing Rs. 300/-. An annual subscription of Rs.50/- per member is collected every financial year.

Beyond its Online Public Access Catalogue and a touch screen facility, scanning services were introduced in the year 2006 by which rare and old documents are scanned and preserved for posterity. A well established Reader's Forum is functioning in the library. CPL is a truly multifaceted institution providing information, inspiration and recreation to research, reference and general reading public not only to the residents of Chennai but also to the entire country. In this noble task, the highly motivated and dedicated staffs are constantly updating to realize the needs of the readers and everyday challenges in the profession. Connemara Public Library serves the public daily from 9.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on weekdays and from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Sundays except on three National holidays. The library is hosting a national seminar on Indian National Bibliography (INB) of south Indian languages for the Golden celebrations of the about "Decentralisation of the data collection" during July 25-26, 2008 in association with the Rajaram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata. Director, Mr. N. Avudaiappan can be reached through: [librarian@connemarapubliclibrarychennai.com](mailto:librarian@connemarapubliclibrarychennai.com)



## The Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL)

RMRL founded in 1994, exists to provide research materials and facilities for students of Tamil studies in a variety of fields spanning the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The Library's main objectives are to preserve, catalogue, and expand the collection of Roja Muthiah, who during his lifetime amassed one of the world's finest private libraries of Tamil publications.

The Library's notable strengths are its holdings in classical and modern literature, literary criticism, medicine, cinema and the related culture of printed folklore, material by and about women, numerous publications of historical value. more than 100,000 volumes of books, addition there are rich holdings of Varma's workshop, nearly 30,000 journal enormous collection of clippings, drama business and family correspondence, and the publications date from the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup>.



works (such as song books), religion and philosophy, and The collection is comprised of journals, and newspapers. In oleolithographs from Ravi abstracts and indexes, an notices, wedding invitations, palm leaf manuscripts. Most of

After the demise of Roja Muthiah, the University of Chicago has taken up to preserve Roja Muthiah's collection along with MOZHI, a public trust located in Chennai from 1996-2004. In 2005 the RMRL Trust was formed. Preliminary electronic catalogue records were created during 1995 and the preservation microfilming facilities were in operation. To date, more than 15,100 volumes have been preserved on microfilm with the help of grant from various international institutions. RMRL is run by a skilled and dedicated staff of twenty-two professionals. It is located in Central Polytechnic (CPT) Campus, Taramani just opposite to Indira Nagar train station. It is open Monday through Saturday except second Saturday of every month from 9.30 a.m. 1.00 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. More details about the library is available at: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/southasia/about-rmrl.html>



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