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MALA InfoZine

The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

December 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear friends,

Greetings!

MALA in association with the Directorate of Public Libraries conducted a very successful "Symposium on the Role of Public Libraries in Social Development" on October 18, 2008 at the World University Service Centre, Chennai. This programme was sponsored by Rajarammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkatta. This was well attended by more than 100 public librarians from all over the state of Tamil Nadu. There was overwhelming response to call for papers. The librarians took advantage of the opportunity to present their papers at the symposium. It is very encouraging to hear the creative ways in which several rural librarians are offering their services in order to cater to the information needs of their community. We look forward to such involvement in the future from the librarians so they can educate, learn and grow.

It is gratifying to note that the government is encouraging the role of the libraries and librarians in social development. The proposed eight storied library complex of international standards to be completed by 2010 is by itself a testimony to this commitment. After all, "knowledge is power".

As per information industry statistics, Information end users with in-house libraries save an average of nine hours and US\$ 2,218 in costs per interaction. (Information Management Under Fire: Measuring ROI for Enterprise Libraries, Outsell, 9 November 2007). We as librarians, play a unique role in gathering, organizing, and coordinating access to the best available information sources for the organization, understanding the critical need of turning that information into usable knowledge. We are the people that make this information more meaningful by delivering them as knowledge packages. We are the new hybrid librarians!! We need to be proactive and futuristic. In this day of constant budget cuts and downsizing are we doing enough to make the management realize the value of information? It is our

responsibility to effectively market our services in the interest of the profession. MALA can help you in your quest for continuous improvement, librarianship is agreeably lifelong learning.

Do write to us your success stories; let us know what kind of programmes you would like to see from your association, what you can do to contribute to the growth of your peers. It is only through this knowledge transfer we can save the industry and make it a collective learning experience.

Warm regards and Season's Greetings!

Vijaya K Sundaram

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We are happy to welcome the following New Members:

Annual

Mr. D. Saminathan, Oxford College of Management, Bangalore

Institution

Guru Shree Shanti Vijai Jain College for Women, Chennai

Life

Mr. S. Muthiah, Author and Historian, Chennai
Mr. K. Murugan, Local Library Authority, Chennai
Mr. V. Thangaraj, SERC Library, Chennai

About our Members

On October 31, 2008, Librarians from different streams, library users, Publishers and State Library authorities gathered at the Connemara Public Library, Chennai to bid a warm farewell to its Director Mr. N. Avudaiappan. He retired after 35 years of distinguished service. Mr. Avudaiappan streamlined many library related procedures in the public library system in Tamilnadu and served as a

strong link between the users and the libraries. His exemplary work experience, leadership qualities, resourcefulness and user friendly services were highly commended by the people gathered at the event. We wish him happy retirement!!

Dr. Harish Chandra, Librarian has been awarded Fellowship 2008 by Society for Information Sciences (SIS) New Delhi for valuable contributions to Information Science in India. The award was received by Dr. Harish Chandra at the valedictory function of SIS 25th National Convention at IIM, Indore on 6th December 2008.

Central Library, IIT Madras has conducted information literacy program on Web of Science: a Research Tool on October 17, 2008. Dr. Khee Hiang, Customer Trainer, Thomson Reuters, Singapore made a presentation. 50 faculty, students and staff participated.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Local

32nd Chennai Book Fair run by the Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India (BAPASI) is being held at St. George's Anglo Indian School, Chennai during January 8th to 18th, 2009.

National

A five day **Workshop on Integrated Library Automation Packages (ILAP):** Basics of KOHA and NewGenLib is organised at National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore from January 5th to 9th, 2009, covering installation and study of various modules of KOHA and NewGenLib. Further information can be had from <http://dharmaganja.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/workshop/index.html>.

Info Vision 2009: The Knowledge Summit at Le Meridian, Bangalore from January 22-23, 2009. Please see: <http://www.infovision.org.in/2009/>

National Seminar on Role of School Libraries in Quality Education is organized by the Division of Library, Documentation and Information (DLDI), NCERT during February 10-11, 2009 at NCERT, New Delhi. Check <http://www.ncert.nic.in/html/pdf/DLDI.pdf>

National Workshop on Library 2.0.: A Global Information Hub is organized by Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad at their premises from February 5 to 6, 2009. Write to Mrs. Nishtha Anilkumar, Librarian, PRL at: nishtha@prl.res.in

International

CALIBER 2009: 7th International Convention on Automation of Libraries in Education and Research is to be held on February 25 – 27, 2009, at Puducherry University. The theme of CALIBER-2009 is "**E-Content Management: Challenges and Strategies**". The conference registration fee is Rs. 1500/-. Travel and Dearness Allowance and accommodation charges will have to be borne by sponsoring organizations/participants. Please send your completed registration form along with the registration fee through Demand Draft drawn in favour of Organizing Secretary, International CALIBER-2009, payable at Puducherry no later than January 31, 2009. DD should be drawn on nationalized banks only. Please note that delegate registration fee of Rs.1500/- for the CALIBER, does not include accommodation fee. Additional fee of Rs.200/- will be charged for spot registration.

Accommodation can be arranged for the participants in the university campus and other sister institutions on first come first serve basis provided intimation and advance booking charges are sent to the Organizing Secretary along with registration fees. If any participant intends to stay in a hotel, it may be arranged on actual payment basis by providing intimation and advance booking charges. Please write to Dr. R Samyuktha, Organizing Secretary, International CALIBER-2009 Phone: 91-0413-2665213, Fax: +91-0413-2655254 Mob: 09442100028. E-mail: arplib@yahoo.co.in / samravi007@yahoo.co.in. Website is: <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/caliber2009/index.htm>

Open Source Singapore: Pacific-Asia Conference & Expo 2009 (OSSPAC) is being held at the Singapore Convention Centre, Singapore from February 16 – 18, 2009. More information at: <http://www.osspace.com>

"We can never judge the lives of others, because each person knows only their own pain and renunciation. It's one thing to feel that you are on the right path, but it's another to think that yours is the only path." – Paulo Coelho

Newsdesk

The Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program: This program, jointly sponsored by the American Theological Library Association, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and OCLC, provides early career development and continuing education for library and information science professionals from countries with developing economies. Application deadline is March 6, 2009.

<http://www.oclc.org/community/careerdevelopment/fellow/s/default.htm> offers more details.

The **American Association for Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)** has announced a **new award program** designed to help librarians and information professionals from developing countries to

stay current with the latest trends and developments in collection development and technical services. One free seat per session for ALCTS online continuing education courses will be offered to eligible individuals. See criteria of eligibility at the ALCTS Web site: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/awards/grants/onlinagrant.cfm>

Join eMALA for Latest Information: Steps to follow:

Go to www.yahoo.com and select Groups. Sign-Up for the Groups by creating your own username and password. 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!

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"BOOKS ARE A FORM OF OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY CREATED IN THE DARK AGES FOR A SOCIETY DEVOID OF COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC MEDIA OR DIGITAL DATA. IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, GETTING INFORMATION FROM A BOOK IS LIKE CALCULATING MATH ON YOUR FINGERS AND TOES. TO GRADE THIS REPORT, PLEASE POST YOUR COMMENTS ON MY BLOG..."

CHECK IT OUT!

Do you want to highlight the importance of reading habit to your target audience? To add more points to your list check: <http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/14-ways-to-cultivate-a-lifetime-reading-habit.html>

Blog Watch

User Education Resources for Librarians: <http://libeducation.blogspot.com/>

Highly Recommended

Book: *Your Career, Your Life: Career Management for the Information Professional* edited by Rosemary Raddon, Ashgate, 2005. Available at the British Council Library, Chennai. Tel: 42050600

Internet Insights

Internet services and resources influence library services.

Innovative Internet Applications in Libraries:

Information links under Ages & Stages, Book and Reading Lists, E-Journals, Local Databases, "My Library" Personalized Interfaces, Newsletters, Blogs & Wikis, Site News & Evaluation, Special Collections & Online Exhibits, Tutorials/Guides, Virtual Reference Desks Virtual Tours, Web Forms and Miscellaneous are very useful offered by the Wilton Library: <http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/Innovate.html>

Edited by L. R. Gowri and Vijaya K Sundaram

We welcome your contributions for our next Newsletter, namely articles of interest to the librarians, 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 hearing your suggestions/co-sponsorship of MALA events. Please feel free to write to us. Our Email ID is: madrastlibraryassociation@gmail.com

Please encourage your professional colleagues to become members of MALA. Membership fees for individuals is Rs. 100/- for Annual, Rs. 500/- for Life and Rs. 3,000/- for Institutional members. The fees could be paid by cash/local cheque/demand draft in favour of The Madras Library Association. The membership application form can be downloaded from: <http://www.accel-india.com/mala/0700.htm>. Please mail the duly filled in application form along with the cheque/demand draft to the Treasurer Dr. M. Mymoon, No.10, 4th Street, Sevanagar, Velachery, Chennai 600 042.

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