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# MALA InfoZine

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The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

June 2009

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## Message from the President:

### Greetings!

The lecture by Mr. V. Sriram (see picture) on the 29th April 2009 conducted jointly by MALA and Roja Muthiah Research Library was very well attended and was very informative especially to the librarians. Mr. Sriram used wit and humor in narrating his experiences with the various libraries in India and their holdings. It was a useful feedback from a user perspective and made us reflect on the way people perceive our profession. Personally I value these feedback very positively so we can improve on our customer relationship!!



This is also a good time to revisit our association's vision and mission statements.

The objective of the Madras Library Association (MALA) shall be "to promote library service and librarianship."

Our mission is "to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the library and information profession at large; to facilitate learning and continuous growth and ensure access to information for all."

Membership to the Madras Library Association (MALA) is available to individuals who are involved in librarianship or library work; those who are not in library work but wish to support the Association; and those who are currently unemployed or retired from the profession. Membership is also available to libraries as well as to the organizations that wish to support the Association. To join, renew or add-on to your existing individual/library or corporate membership, please feel free to contact us at [madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com). Kindly encourage your friends and colleagues to become members. Corporations can become members of MALA by calling the Secretary at 93823-38822.

In order to achieve our objectives we have been conducting seminars and workshops in the past as we deem useful. Our membership is very diverse and the needs are so varied. The Executive Committee would like to ensure that it has a far reaching effect. In order to cater to the changing needs and to identify the target audience and to customise our activities we would like to engage the membership in a dialogue. We are attaching a brief questionnaire. We hope you will take the time to fill-in and return the form, and of course feel free to include any other details you may wish to share with us. Rest assured that the information you provide would be kept confidential.

Best regards  
Vijaya K. Sundaram

## **New Member:**

We are happy to welcome Ms. G. Jayanthi, Vidhya Sagar Women's College, Chengalput as a Life member.

## **Forthcoming Programs**

### **Local**

#### **Trip to MALA Kalpakkam Chapter**

MALA members are invited for a free tour of the "MALA - Kalpakkam Chapter" on **Saturday, July 18, 2009** to understand the activities of Scientific Information Resource Division (SIRD), IGCAR and participate in a discussion on "*Recent Advances in the LIS field*". Come and share your experiences with other members. The trip includes fellowship lunch hosted by Dr. M. Saibaba, Head, SIRD. The trip will start by 8.00 a.m. from Roja Muthiah Library, Tharamani, Chennai. Interested members may please call Ms. Gowri at: 9382338822 or Dr. Chandrakumar at: 9444114271 *on or before July 10, 2009*.

### **MALA AGM**

The **Annual General body Meeting of MALA** is scheduled on Librarians' Day, Saturday, August 8, 2009 at Oorvasi Hall, Palmgrove Hotel, Nungambakkam at 6.00 p.m. followed by dinner. You are welcome to nominate any member of MALA to the posts of President, two Vice-Presidents (one from Publishing field), Secretary, Joint-Secretary, Treasurer and eight Committee Members. You may send in your nominations to Mr. A. Gnanasekar, former Executive Committee member of MALA, who has agreed to be the Returning Officer. His contact details are: [agnanasekar@gmail.com](mailto:agnanasekar@gmail.com) or residential address: Flat No.15, Ayya Flats, 50 Mettu Street, Velacherry, Chennai 600 042.

### **National**

NCRA, Pune is organising a **Workshop on KOHA** open source library management software from 13th July to 15th July 2009. The workshop will cover installation of KOHA on Linux operating system, introduction to Linux Operating System, customization and configuration of KOHA software, demonstration of all modules (Acquisitions, Cataloguing, Serial Control, Circulation & OPAC), introduction to MARC 21, multilingual support in KOHA, MARC records, import feature in KOHA etc. For more details click: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/library/kohaworkshop/index.html>

NCSI-IDRC's **Workshops on Library Automation Packages and Digital Library Software**. Two workshops of one week duration each on Library Automation Packages (LAP) and its integration with Digital Library Software are organised at National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore from July 27th to 31st and August 3rd to 7th. Topics covered include Installation, Staff-Client and OPAC modules of a few LAP and its Integration with Digital Library Software on Linux (Ubuntu) platform. <http://dharmaganja.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/workshop> provides more details.

"The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity."  
-- Ayn Rand

## International

**International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2010) Shaping the Information Paradigm** will be held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi from February 24 to 26, 2010. For paper submission and other details check: [www.teriin.org/events/icdl](http://www.teriin.org/events/icdl)

## News desk

### **MALA Gets New Premises**

We are happy to inform you all that MALA will function from Ground Floor (entry at the rear), LLA Building, 737 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002. Our sincere thanks to Mr. G. Arivoli, Director, Mr. S. Ramalingam, Joint Director, Mr. N. Ramani, former Director of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai, for their kind support in this regard.

We are planning to establish a collection of print and electronic media on LIS subjects in our new office. We request the members to donate generously any relevant material.

### **Directorate of Public Libraries gets a new Director**

Hearty Congratulations to Mr. G. Arivoli (see picture), for his new post as the Director of the Directorate of Public Libraries. His promotion from his previous post as Joint Director of the School Education Department, Government of Tamilnadu, is welcomed by the LIS community in Tamilnadu and we look forward to his encouragement and support to make Tamilnadu a model State Library System in India. Members of MALA wish him a great success in his career and in all his future endeavours.



### **Connemara Public Library Plans for a Modern Children's Library**

With the support of the School Education Minister Hon. Thangam Thennarasu, Mr. G. Arivoli, Directorate of Public Libraries is planning to open a modern Children's Library at the Connemara Library premises. The Library will occupy 2,400 sq ft. with a collection of both print and electronic material with a very appealing interior. It is scheduled to open by July 2009.

## Highly Recommended

For anyone who has a blog or dreams to start a one the book titled "*What No One Ever Tells You About Blogging and Podcasting : Real-Life Advise from 101 People Who Successfully Leverage the Power of the Blogosphere*" by TED Demopoulos. Published by Kaplan Publishing, 2007. The book is available at the British Council Library, Chennai.

## Internet Insights

Clive Thompson on the **Future of Reading in a Digital World** in Wired magazine.  
[http://www.wired.com/techbiz/people/magazine/17-06/st\\_thompson](http://www.wired.com/techbiz/people/magazine/17-06/st_thompson)

### **New Search Engines:**

**Bing:** <http://www.bing.com/>

Microsoft's search engine, Windows Live Search is now called Bing.

**Wolfram|Alpha:** <http://www.wolframalpha.com/> A different kind of search engine. Instead of answering your search query with a list of websites, Wolfram Alpha focuses on "objective data".

## Guest Column

### Are we making the best use of the Open Access and Public Domain Literature in our Institutions?



M.G. Sreekumar, (UNESCO Coordinator, Greenstone Support For South Asia), Librarian & Head, Center for Development of Digital Libraries (CDDL), Indian Institute of Management - Kozhikode, ([mgsree@iimk.ac.in](mailto:mgsree@iimk.ac.in))

Thanks to the developments in technology, especially those in the ICTs, 'e-Publishing' has now brought about a sea change in the world of scholarly communication. Open Access (OA), an alternative for scientific publication and scholarly communication, aims to get rid of the clutches of the giant publishers, and is widely being embraced by the scientific and academic fraternity worldwide. Steven Harnad et al. report the findings of their study on journal crisis that is plaguing the world, and have identified two major issues being faced by the research/academic community: *journal-affordability* and the *research access/impact* problem. The solution is to make all articles OA, that is accessible online, and free for all.

Ultimately, OA aims at open access to peer-reviewed scholarly journal literature. There are two ways to attain this goal: 1. OA Publishing (OAP), famous as '*golden road*' to OA. In this model, journal/s are published as OA publications and they provide instant online open access. 2. OA Archiving (OAA) or OA self-archiving, also called the '*green road*' to OA. In this model, authors submit their pre-peer reviewed versions of papers (pre-prints) or post peer-reviewed published article/s (post-prints) into the archive for open access.

Heather Morrison, in his Blog 'The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics' gives an excellent statistics on OA. The number of open access journals in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), maintained by the Lund University, has crossed 4,220 now. This account for more than 15% of the world's estimated 20-25,000 peer-reviewed journals! The Directory of OA Archives (DOAR) now has more than 1,300 OA repositories around the world and accessible online. OAster, the single largest search engine of OA Archives, searches over 16 million items. Another pioneering search service, the 'Open J-Gate' of Informatics India Ltd. harvests over 5485 journals and hosts over millions of citations. Similarly, Scientific Commons hosts a massive 17 million items contributed by over 7 million authors. PubMedCentral, the world's largest open access archive crossed the one million mark.

OA offers a broad spectrum of benefits to the academic and research community. It is submitted that Indian institutions also, following the models of NIH and others, should embark on policy formulations that leads to mandating OA to all publications resulting from publicly-funded research.

In summary OA shows us how technology can help, enable and empower the scientific community unlock the invaluable academic and scholarly knowledge, which in turn, empower the scientific community themselves. Libraries across the world as well as the common man also benefit pricelessly by this. But the real benefit will take place only when librarians connect the OA to their users effectively.

**Reference:** Sreekumar, M.G., 'Open Access', *World Digital Libraries 1(1):61-75, 2008.*  
OA Version @ <http://dspace.iimk.ac.in:8080/bitstream/2259/572/1/WDL-V1N1-6-June2K8.pdf>

*Edited by L. R. Gowri and Viiava K Sundaram*