Message from the President

Season's Greetings!

This has been a very eventful year for MALA. On behalf of MALA, the executive committee wishes to thank each and every one of its members for all your support through the year and we look forward to your continued support and involvement in the coming years.

As a Consultant to a leading aggregator of global information I conducted 2 days workshop on online information retrieval and research. This was attended by mostly researchers and scholars from health sciences but sad to note that none of them were information professionals. Traditionally information professionals have been the subject specialists and have been doing this job but the information industry is so advanced that it has made looking for information easy. We need to keep ourselves technology savvy so we can make ourselves indispensable in this competitive age. MALA would like to play a leading role in your continuous learning and career growth.

On December 5th 2009, we conducted a successful workshop on KOHA Open Source Library Management Software jointly organized by Anna University MIT library and National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) AU-KBC Research Centre, Anna University Chennai. It was well attended by 69 information professionals and was well received. We have received excellent feedback. Most people have requested additional hands on training which only prove their willingness to adapt to technology and be adept at it. We wish to acknowledge that it was very well organized and structured with good course materials in a very modern set up. We would like to thank NRC FOSS and the Anna University MIT library for their hospitality. We wish the KOHA team great success. We look forward to many more of this type of workshops to help us stay informed.

This issue of the Infozine carries an interesting article on **The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute.** This is an interesting library with some rare and unique collection. Read all about it. If you would like to share any interesting information about your library please feel free to contact us.

With Warm Regards,
Vijaya K Sundaram

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New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to MALA:

Life
Mr. M. Ekambaram, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai
Mr. K. Kumar, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering & Technology (SVCET), Chittor
Ms. M. Leema, Vel Tech University, Chennai
Ms. T. Premila, Connemara Public Library, Chennai
Mr. M. Seenivasan, RMK Engineering College, Kavaraipettai
Mr. J. Sripathi, Guru Nanak College, Chennai
Ms. G. Thangammal, Chinmaya Vidhyalaya School, Taylor's Road, Chennai

About our Members:

Dr. M. Mymoon, Executive Member, represented MALA in the Library Week celebrations at D A V Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mogappair and Sivakasi Hindu Nadars Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Egmore in the last week of November 2009. She distributed prizes to students participating in various library week programs and reiterated the importance of reading to students from these schools.

Success Story

On December 5, 2009, MALA organised a seminar on KOHA, an Open Source Software, in association with National Resource Center for Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) at Anna University. The seminar was held at the MIT Library, Chrompet Campus of the Anna University, Chennai. 69 LIS professionals from different parts of south India participated in the programme.

(A section of the audience)

Mr. G. Arivoli, Director, Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai inaugurated the program. Dr. K. Manohar, Dr. N.C. Krishnan, Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan, Prof. K. Balu from Anna University and Ms. Vijaya K Sundaram, President, MALA also took part in the day's proceedings.

Blog Watch: *Library Stuff* – librarystuff.net – the library Weblog dedicated to resources for keeping current and professional development, written by Steven M. Cohen.

ONLINE Insider – onlineinsider.net – the editorial blog by Marydee Ojala, editor of ONLINE: Exploring Technology & Resources for Information Professionals. Presents commentary on happenings in the online world.

Forthcoming Programmes

Local

The two day conference on "**REcent ADvances in Information science and Technology - 2009 (READIT-2009)**" is being organised by MALA-Kalpakkam Chapter during 29-30th December, 2009, at IGCAR, Kalpakkam. "Knowledge Representation through Semantic Library" will be the theme of the conference. Sub-themes are: Digital Library Infrastructure Development; Semantic Web Technologies for Digital Library; Digital Resources Organization & Discovery; Federated Search, Interoperability and crosswalks; Vocabulary and taxonomy development; Knowledge Organization and semantic Information Retrieval; Open Source Solutions & Library 2.0; Knowledge Management Practices in Library & Information Centers. Targeted at Librarians, Information Professionals, Scientists, Knowledge Managers and Gate-Keepers working in R&D establishments, Academic and Corporate Institutions & Industries.

The conference will have invited talks by experts in the field and contributed paper presentations from Researchers. A pre-conference tutorial is being arranged for the benefit of Library and Information Professionals on "Digital Repository Creation and Preservation Management on December 28, 2009."

The **33rd Chennai Book Fair** is scheduled from December 30, 2009 to January 10, 2010, at St. George's Anglo-Indian School Grounds, (opp. to Pachayappa's College) Chennai organised by the Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India (BAPASI).

National

Central Library, IIT Kharagpur is organising the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (**INDEST)-AICTE workshop** and seventh annual meet during 13-15 January 2010 in Kharagpur. http://www.library.iitkgp.ernet.in/sites/workshop/workshop.htm gives more details.

MANagement LIBraries NETwork (MANLIBNET) has announced its 11th **Annual National Convention** from 15 to 17 February 2010 at Siva Sivani Institute of Management, Hyderabad. For more details, check: www.ssim.ac.in/www.manlibnet.in

National Conference on Innovative Qualitative and Quantitative Research Techniques in Digital Era on February 13, 2010, at Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli. More details at: http://www.bhc.ac.in/

Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North Eastern Region (PLANNER) is a special convention organized by INFLIBNET in collaboration with different universities of North Eastern States to promote library automation and networking. Earlier conventions held at Shillong, Imphal, Silchar, Aizwal, Guwahati, and Dimapur were organised on various themes related to library automation and networking. **PLANNER 2010** is 7th PLANNER in the series. This convention will provide a forum to LIS professionals to discuss and interact on the new challenges & dynamism for re-defining the Library and Information Services to meet the demands of the end users in the digital era. The PLANNER- 2010 will be held in collaboration with Tezpur University during 18-20 February 2010 in Tezpur University, Assam. More information available at: http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/planner2010/aboutPlanner.html

International

Department of Educational Technology and Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli 620 024 are organising. "**International Conference on "E-Resources in Higher Education: Issues, Developments, Opportunities and Challenges**" on 19th & 20th Feb 2010. For more details check: **http://eresourcesbdu.webs.com/**

ETTLIS-2010 Network of International Symposium will be held during June 3-5, 2010 at Jaypee University of Information Tehnology, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Details in http://ettlis2010.ning.com/

News

Bangalore University (BU) library will soon digitise all rare publications available

A decision was taken to digitize all rare books, publications, theses and dissertations of the varsity. A scanning centre will be established in collaboration with Digital Library of India under the 'Million books digitalisation project' of Carnegie Mellon University of United States. It was also recommended that Bangalore University Academic Network (BALNET) be developed to share books and journals on interlibrary loan basis with libraries of affiliated colleges. A special software will be introduced in the digitalisation process which will detect the percentage of copying in the thesis or dissertation work. (Dec 19, 2009, Express News Service)

New District Central library building to be ready in a year in Trichirappalli

The new building for the District Central Library will be constructed in a year's time. Priority is to be given for clearing of the tender for the construction of the library on an outlay of Rs. 3.74 crore. The building of the library, one of the oldest in the State, which accounts for about 1.5 lakh titles, was demolished two years ago, as its structure got weakened.

The new building, to come up on an area of 30,000 square feet, will have a ground and first floor, each with a plinth area of 15,000 square feet. It will accommodate 'dailies and periodicals' section, Children's wing, Womens' unit, Lending section, Internet unit, Study Centre for IAS and IPS and other competitive examinations and a Conference Hall. (Nov 20, 2009, The Hindu)

India to share traditional knowledge with US says open to free-trade pact news

During prime minister Manmohan Singh's first state visit to the US, India signed an agreement giving the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) of the India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).The agreement will enable the USPTO to search the extensive database of India's traditional knowledge compiled under TKDL. CSIR would also provide training to the USPTO examiners and staff to help them use TKDL tools for search and examination.

India's Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks and the US Patent and Trademark Office of the US Department of Commerce also signed a memorandum of understanding. As per the MoU both countries would facilitate comprehensive bilateral cooperation on a range of IPR issues focusing on capacity building, human resource development and raising public awareness of the importance of IPR. (Nov.24, 2009 domain-b.com)

Google Unveils News-by-Topic Service

Google has introduced a new approach to presenting news online by topic, developed with The New York Times and The Washington Post, and said that if the experiment succeeded, it would be made available to all publishers. The Google project, presented without ads, is now at **livingstories.googlelabs.com**, part of Google Labs, where the company tries out experimental products. If it is judged a success, it would eventually reside on the site of any publisher that wanted to use it. Those publishers could also sell ads on those pages. (Dec 8, 2009 New York Times)

Our condolences:
With deep regret, MALA condoles the sudden death of Mr. S. Srinivas, Information officer of ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics), Hyderabad in November 2009.

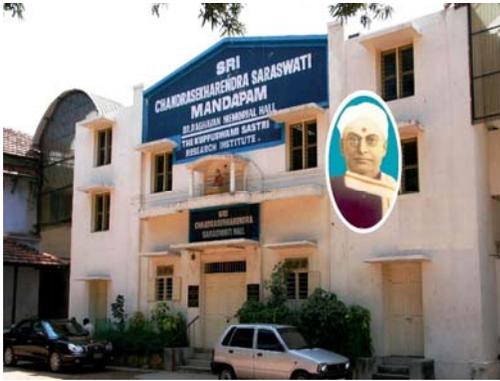## The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute
by J. Lalitha

The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute was established in 1944 in memory of Mahopadhyaya Sri. S. Kuppuswami Sastri. The institute is functioning from the Madras Sanskrit College premises at Mylapore, Chennai.

This institute holds more than 50,000 books and 1500 Palm leaf manuscripts. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Prof. M. Hiriyanna, Padmabhushan Dr. V. Raghavan, Dr. S.S. Janaki, Prof. K. S. Rangaswamy Iyengar and Prof. S. Ramaswamy are among the well-known scholars who have donated their collection of books to this institute.

Ayurveda, Astrology, Astronomy, Grammar, Music, Dance, Architecture, Vastu Sastra,Justice, Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Baghavat Gita, Vedas, Upanishads, Yoga, Mimamsa, Sankya, Nyaya, Advaita, Dvaita, Vishistadvita, Buddhism, Jainism, Saivism are some of the areas covered in the collection of this unique library.

This institute has under its possession books on various Indian languages such as Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Oriya and Gujarathi as well as foreign languages namely English,

German, French, Dutch and Japanese. Apart from books Indian and foreign language magazines are also available in this institute. Most of these books are over 100 years old. Some very rare books like Saiva Agama Sastra are pride possessions of this institute. These books and Palm leaf manuscripts are protected in air-conditioned atmosphere. Automated catalogue facilitates easy access to materials.

With the help of Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam about 2000 books have been digitised. Through the library's website at www.ksrisanskrit.in academics and professionals can locate about 30,000 books. People from various strata of society are users of this library which includes 444 life members and 775 readers. Students of the Madras University, Pondicherry University, Kerala University, Karnataka University and TTD are some of the frequent users of this library. Libraries such as Roja Muthiah Library, Adyar library, Sri. V.V. Swaminatha Iyer Library are the patrons of this institute. The Director and the Assistant Director are always ready to help visitors and readers in their quest.

This library functions from Monday to Saturday from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. The library is closed on 2nd Saturdays and Sundays and all other government holidays. Dr. Kameswari is the Director and Mrs. J. Lalitha is the Librarian (author of this article) of the institute. They can be contacted at: The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute, No.84, Thiru Vi.Ka. Road, Madras Sanskrit College Premises, Mylapore, Chennai – 600004. E-mail: ksrinst@gmail.com

Internet Insights:

5 Higher Ed Tech Trends to Watch in 2010 by Bridget McCrea
http://campustechnology.com/articles/2009/12/09/5-higher-ed-tech-trends-to-watch-in-2010.aspx

10 Biggest Challenges eBooks face
http://ireaderreview.com/2009/12/13/10-biggest-challenges-ebooks-face/

Best Practices for Publishing Journal Articles from National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS™) http://www.nfais.org/files/file/Best_Practices_Final_Public.pdf

Boolify (http://www.boolify.org/) A **search engine that illustrates the logic of searches**.

Is it too late to catch up with Social Media? Read Seth Godin's Blog in http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/2009/12/is-it-too-late-to-catch-up.html

Students with print disabilities soon will have access to a larger library of web-based college textbooks by Dennis Carter http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=62244

The Top 100 Free Apps For Your Phone. Check: http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2356415,00.asp

Top Digital Trends For 2010 at: http://www.digitalmediabuzz.com/2009/12/top-digital-trends-for-2010/

As key stakeholders in the digital arena, librarians must **understand the impediments to digital scholarship**. With a better understanding of this particular challenge, what can we do to help? Check: http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/12012009/it%E2%80%99s-content-stupid

Learn about **Web 2.0 Tools and their applications** at: http://www.go2web20.net/

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Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself. - John Dewey

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We **welcome your contributions** to the Newsletter. Programs organized 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. Our email ID is: madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com

Join e-MALA for Latest Information
Steps to follow:
- Go to Yahoo.com and select Groups.
- By creating your own username and Password Sign-Up for the Groups.
- Search for e-MALA and again you need to fill up the form to join e-MALA
- When you complete selecting the options, you are already inside e-MALA!

Edited by L. R. Gowri and Vijaya K Sundaram.
MALA, Ground Floor, LLA Buildings, 735 Anna Salai, Chennai 600002

LIFE IS LIKE THAT

"Somebody sent me a funny e-mail and I thought it was hilarious so I forwarded a copy to my boss. I didn't know it was one of his memos!"

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together. - Georg C. Lichtenberg

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://mala.managedbiz.com . Please mail the duly filled in application form along with the cheque/demand draft to the Treasurer Ms. Meena Y. Reddy, New. No.87 (Old No. 41) 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai 600 083