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# MALA InfoZine

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The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

March 2010

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## Message from the President

Greetings!

The role of any association is to collaborate with various chapters and similar associations in helping the professionals and its members derive maximum benefit from knowledge transfer. MALA has always been actively involved with various organizations such as RCIS, SALIS, CSI, DPL etc. in jointly organizing various programmes and workshops. MALA members and the executives participated in the launch of the SALIS journals release function that was held on 6 March 2010. The Presidents of MALA, TLA and SALIS jointly presented a memo to the Director, Directorate of Public Libraries requesting the appointment of professional Librarians in schools to effectively disseminate the library services to the school children thus creating permanent employment opportunities for the qualified librarians. Thiru. Arivoli announced that they are planning to hire up to 1000 librarians for the high schools across Tamil Nadu.

One of the essential qualities of an information professional is to be proactive instead of reactive. We need to anticipate the needs of our customers. There are several ways of achieving this goal. One way of knowing the needs is to be seen with the customers.

In my earlier job where different departments were housed in different floors and having the information resource centre tucked away in a quite corner did not serve the purpose. We needed to understand what each department wanted. The only way was to have the team spread across all floors and directly liaise with the various teams to understand what everyone was doing. These implants (as they were called) though reluctant to move beyond their comfort zone initially, eventually created a big rapport and gained confidence of the senior staff.

This way we created more visibility and trust among the departments. They were invited to the departmental weekly meetings to understand the requirements of the teams they were serving. Our service became more tailor made to their requirements, more fit for purpose. We could cater to their exact needs and got complete co-operation in our new initiatives of digital data management. We need to move away from the four walls and adapt to the needs of our customers. In this day of globalization and electronic data we need to move across boundaries to make ourselves indispensable. We all need to explore the hidden opportunities in order for us to deliver quality information and stay noticed. In this day of mere survival we need to multitask and be creative in our deliverables. Have you done anything that goes beyond the ordinary? Share your new initiatives with us so we can all benefit from your success story!!!

Best regards,  
Vijaya K Sundaram

## New Members

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

### Annual

Ms. J. Alamelu, Librarian, College of Engineering & Technology, Chennai

Mr. S.P. Chitrakala, Consultant, GUSTO India, Chennai  
Mr. M. Ganesan, Grade II Librarian, Branch Library, Tenkasi  
Mr. M. Lakshmanaperumal, Grade II Librarian, Branch Library, Theni District  
Mr. M . L. Muthu, Librarian, Branch Library, Othakadai  
Mr. G. Muthuramalingam, Librarian, Branch Library, Mukkudal  
Mr. R. R. Sarvanakumar, Librarian, District Central Library, Madurai  
Mr. S. Thirugnanasambanthan, Librarian, Branch Library, Sattur

### **Life**

Dr. A. Bagavathi, Librarian, M.N.M. Jain Engineering College, Thoraipakkam,  
Mr. K. Damodaran, Librarian, Branch Library, Perungalathur  
Mr. B. Elango, librarian, IFET College of Engineering, Villupuram  
Mr. C. Elangovan, Village Librarian, Chengalpattu  
Mr. Kumar Rajendran, Administrator, Dr. M.G.R. Janaki College, Chennai  
Ms. R. Karpagam, Research Scholar, Anna University Library, Chennai  
Ms. I. Tamilselvi, Grade III Librarian, Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai  
Mr. C. Velmurugan, Librarian, SAMS College of Engineering and Technology, Panapakkam

### **Institution**

Library & Information Science Promotion Society, Kalpakkam

### **About our Members:**

#### **E-resources for the Oilmen**

Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) Chennai had organized a “Librarian’s Meet” for ONGC librarians from other locations across the country, a two day networking session on January 8 -9,2010. They had invited lectures/talks from various experts in the industry. Dr. Harish Chandra, Librarian, IIT-Madras, Dr. Sreekumar, Librarian, IIM-K and Vijaya Sundaram, President, MALA also participated.

Vijaya conducted an interactive session entitled “E-resources for the Oilmen” where she shared her in depth knowledge on the oil industry resources. There was elaborate discussion on the paid and free subscriptions, associations, customization opportunities. The librarians freely participated in sharing their problems, limitations and networking opportunities in expanding their services across various sites.

### **Success Stories**

#### **MALA Kalpakkam Chapter conducted 7<sup>th</sup> biannual READIT Conference**

On December 29-30, 2009 Scientific Information Resource Division (SIRD) of IGCAR and Kalpakkam Chapter of MALA conducted the “*Recent Advances in Information Science and Technology (READIT)*” at *Sarabhai auditorium, Kalpakkam*. The Conference focused on “Knowledge Representation through Semantic Library”. More than two hundred LIS professionals, research scholars and scientists participated in the Conference. Please see eMALA for pictures.

#### **MALA conducts training programmes for Public Librarians in Chennai and Srivilliputtur**

During February and March 2010, MALA organized three training programmes for Librarians working in the District Central and Branch Libraries in Tamilnadu on behalf of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai where several librarians from various locations participated. The program was funded by the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkatta. The programmes entitled “**Path to Prosperity and Life Harmony: Power Tips for Better Work – Life Balance for Public Librarians**” were conducted by Mr. Srinivasa Raghavan from [www.HappyMentor.com](http://www.HappyMentor.com).



(Pictures: Top: Participants in Srivilliputtur. Bottom: Participants in Chennai)

The program focused on the material and mental well being of the participants to find prosperity and happiness through their work. Participants appreciated the holistic approach of the programme since they had the opportunity to learn such important life skills for the first time. One of the programmes was successfully planned and organized by the MALA Srivilliputtur Chapter of Pennington Library (see group picture). They showed excellent team work in organizing and hosting the one day workshop. They had also organized a tour of their impressive library. Librarians from various district libraries actively participated.

### **Volunteers Needed**

You are welcome to join MALA EC members in assisting the **Anna Centenary Library Project** by offering the authorities your subject specific expertise that matches their requirements. Though the volunteers will not be financially compensated, a Certificate of Recognition for the number of hours served and on the kind of help provided will be awarded. Those interested please write to us at: [madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com). Don't miss this golden opportunity to involve in this historic moment and stay connected!

### **Forthcoming Programs**

#### **Regional**

#### **Anna Centenary Library to be open to the public by June 2010**

R Satyanarayana, Chennai, Feb 28 (PTI) Housing 1.2 million books, the Rs 170-crore Anna Centenary Library being built by the Tamil Nadu Government, modeled on the famous National Library in Singapore, would be ready for inauguration by June 2010. The nine-storied modern library complex, built on an area of 3.75 lakh sq ft in Kotturpuram area of the city, would also subscribe to about 10,000 e-magazines of several genres.

"It (library) is completely modern...something similar to the high-tech Singapore National Library Board. This library will be dedicated to the public by June," state School Education Minister Thangam Thennarasu told PTI. "The government had so far spent Rs 170 crore for the library...we have sought UNESCO's support for tie up with various universities across the globe for accessing e-journals," he said.

## National

**13th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking - NACLIN 2010** will be held from June 15-18, 2010 at the BITS-Pilani,Goa Campus, organised by DELNET-Developing Library Network.

## International

**2nd International Symposium on Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries and Information Services**, June 3-5, 2010. Jointly Organized by Learning Resource Centre Jaypee Institute of Information Technology Noida (UP) & Learning Resource Centre Jaypee University of Information Technology Wanknaghat (HP) in association with Mahatma Gandhi Central Library - IIT Roorkee, Central Library - Delhi Technological University, SALIS-Delhi-NCR and SLA - Asian Chapter. Please log on to: <http://www.jiit.ac.in/jiit/ETTLIS/home.html> for more details.

## **Internet Insights**

### **Free Online Courses in Library Science from U.S. Universities**

**Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) Programme:** <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/able>

The free, online Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) Programme provides basic library knowledge and skills for staff members who have no formal education in library science. The ABLE programme is not designed to replace university level training in library science and no college credit is offered.

**Supplemental Alternative Basic Library Education (SABLE) programme :**

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/sable> The free, online Supplemental Alternative Basic Library Education (SABLE) programme provides additional resources in library knowledge and skills for staff members who have no formal education in library science. This program is a supplement to the ABLE courses; however, they are not tied to the completion of the ABLE courses. The SABLE programme is not designed to replace university level training in library science and no college credit is offered.

## **News you can use:**

### **Schools to have free digital libraries**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The government will set up "Free Digital Libraries" in all schools in Kerala, Education Minister M. A. Baby has said. Under the scheme, 4,071 schools will be provided hardware equipment including 7,300 computers, 3,740 laptops, 6,510 UPS units, 1,291 printers, 785 scanners, 1,160 multimedia projectors and 430 LCD Televisions (32") before March 31. "Here the scope of the word 'free' doesn't limit to mere free of cost. Instead, schools will get absolute freedom to copy, modify and re-distribute the content among teachers, students and general public. This is in tune with the 'Free Software' philosophy, as against the 'License Raj' system offered by proprietary software," he said. (Malayala Manorama Online, MARCH 11)

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*Education is a method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices. - Laurence J. Peter*

### **World library body calls for digital preservation of newspapers**

NEW DELHI: Faced with the challenge of preservation of traditional and digital newspapers in the wake of rapid technological advancement and the need for universal access, stakeholders felt that libraries, IT companies and governments must collaborate to ensure that content is not lost.

This was part of the recommendations of International Federation of Library Association's (IFLA) three-day newspaper conference here. The conference on 'Digital Preservation and Access to News and Views,' hosted by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, was attended by over 220 delegates and speakers from about 10 countries including participation from leading national libraries and newspaper libraries and archives from US, UK, France, Germany, Finland, Australia, South Africa and Singapore.



Amongst other recommendations that experts have zeroed in on include that newspapers libraries, archives and other public libraries and national institutions, which provide access to news resources, should collaborate effectively to share their experiences and expertise in these areas.

It is also recommended that the IFLA newspaper section, after a careful evaluation, come out with a list of open source digital archiving software packages, that would meet the specific requirements of newspaper libraries and other organisations involved in preserving and providing access to news resources. An online directory of newspaper libraries worldwide, with country specific listing, is also on the anvil. (March 3, 2010 Times of India)

**INFLIBNET, a one-point source for quality research data by R. Krishnamoorthy** (The Hindu, March 8, 2010)

Over 150 universities have access to around 8,000 scholarly journals, obviating the need for individual subscriptions. Through e-consortium, the inflibnet (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad, an Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has enabled over 150 universities across the country to access around 8,000 full text scholarly journals of which 4,000 are subscribed journals from leading international publishers.

The e-resources cover almost all subject disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics. This provision obviates the need for the university libraries to spend heavily on individual subscription of prestigious e-journals, and thereby facilitate and expand the scope for quality research. Researchers can make the most of the over 1,000 open access e-journals and open access directories.

The open access e-journals comprise those published by Bioline International (<http://bioline.org.br/>), BioMed Central (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>), HighWire Press (<http://highwire.stanford.edu/>), Indian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.ias.ac.in/>), Indian Journals (<http://indianjournals.com/>),

Journal of Digital Information (<http://jodi.tamu.edu/>), Journal of Postgraduate Medicine (<http://www.jpjgmonline.com/>), MedIND (<http://medint.nic.in/>), MedKnow (<http://medknow.com/>), Molecular Diversity Preservation International (<http://www.mdpi.org/>), Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org/>), PubMed Central (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>), and Trials (<http://www.trialsjournal.com/>).

As for open access directories, 1,827 journals on a variety of subjects including Agriculture and Food Sciences, Arts and Architecture, Business and Economics, History and Archaeology, Languages and Literatures, Mathematics and Statistics, Philosophy and Religion, and Technology and Engineering, are searchable at article level at the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Till date, 3,49,0422 articles have been included in the DOAJ Service, said Dr. Srinivasaragavan, Chief Librarian and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, told The Hindu Education Plus.

Besides, sixty free medical journals are also available. The J-Gate provides seamless access to millions of journal articles available online, he said, adding that Open J-Gate is also a database of journal literature, indexed from 3,000-plus open access journals with links to full text at publisher sites.



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"For my Current Events class, I'm supposed to read a newspaper every day. What's a newspaper?"

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Edited by L. R. Gowri and Vijaya K Sundaram  
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## Talk to Us

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: [madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:madraslibraryassociation@gmail.com).

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### Advertise in our Newsletter

**A4 size full page for a year (4 issues) is Rs. 15,000/-**

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### Membership

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. Membership application form can be downloaded from [our website:](http://mala.managedbiz.com/0600.htm) <http://mala.managedbiz.com/0600.htm> The fees could be paid by cash/local cheque/demand draft in favour of The Madras Library Association.