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MALA InfoZine

The Madras Library Association's Newsletter

June 2011

Message from the President

Greetings!

"Copyright is an exclusive right given to creators of original works such as literary, artistic works to prevent unauthorized copying or reproducing their work by others. The period for which the copyright subsists is the lifetime of the author plus sixty years from the calendar year in which the author Dies". "Copyright and the law, continues to evolve with the growing world of technology" thus concluded the eloquent and informative lecture by Dr. Sudhir Ravindran, Patent Attorney and CEO of Altacit Global on April 23, 2011 at the Connemara Public Library old building. MALA in association with the Computer Society of India and the Connemara Public Library (CPL), Chennai celebrated the **World Book and Copyright Day** with a talk on "Intellectual Property and the Importance of Copyright Protection". The event was well attended and was very interactive. We could not have asked for a more qualified speaker than Dr. Sudhir Ravindran for the event.

The programme at the old building of Connemara library was a wonderful venue to celebrate the occasion. I hope all the members have visited the Connemara Library atleast once. It is such a wonderful landmark and is well maintained. Congratulations to Mr. Meenakshi Sundaram and his team for doing such a wonderful job of preserving such rare books. We are very proud to see such dedicated rare breed of librarians. There is a feeling of pride and joy to see such committed librarians which are becoming a rare commodity. It is one of the busiest places next to the railway station. Book reading will live on atleast for a few years.

We will have the Annual General Body Meeting this year yet again in August. We shall send you the details. This is going to be the election year. It has been a rich and rewarding experience personally for me. I enjoyed contributing (in a small measure) towards the oldest and most prestigious association. My earnest and humble request to the members is to get actively involved in association activities. We need fresh and young librarians to participate and contribute constructively. If you are passionate or know anyone who can bring about the change and visibility please nominate them for the executive committee. We all have our day jobs but we need to also stay involved to help our peers in their quest for continuous career growth. We need that knowledge sharing and networking to bring about the recognition and respect for our profession.

AGM notice is included in this newsletter and we request you to come forward to serve the Professional body with your skills or nominate responsible individuals who can take the ball and run with it!! Together let us convert those challenges to opportunities.

Best wishes,
Vijaya K. Sundaram

New Members

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

Mr. K. Ananthnag, Mandya Medical College, Mandya, Karnataka
Mr. T. Raja, J.P. College of Engineering, Tenkasi
Mr. M. Rajkumar, Village Library, Poyyundarkottai, Thanjavur

Life:

Ms. J. Malarvizhi, Alpha Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai
Mr. K. Kalaiyaran, District Central Library, Nammakkal

Success Stories

Talk on IPR and Copyright

On April 23, 2011 MALA in association with Computer Society of India and Connemara Public Library, Chennai celebrated World Book and Copyright Day with a talk on "Intellectual Property and the Importance of Copyright Protection" by Mr. Sudhir Ravindran, Patent Attorney and CEO of Altacit Global. The talk focused on global perspective of Intellectual Property. He also stressed the Importance of Copyright Protection of various media. Around 50 people enjoyed the interactive session. The entire programme was covered and telecast by Doordharshan TV channel. It was one of the memorable events for the audience as well as MALA.

MALA facilitates Training for Public Librarians on Computer Skills

One day workshop on "Beyond the basics – Computer skills – Level -2" organized by the Madras Library Association (MALA) on behalf of the Directorate of Public Libraries, Chennai. Rajaram Mohan Roy Foundation (RRRLF) sponsored the program on March 19, 2011.

An expert from the IT field delivered the programme. MALA's executive committee members designed the contents for the programme based on the feedback received from the participants of last training programme. Large number of public librarians attended and benefited through the training. At the end of the programme, the librarians showed enthusiasm to practice the skills gained in their daily lives.

Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work. - Peter Drucker

Forthcoming Programs

Local

MALA

Annual General Body meeting of MALA is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2011. Please find attached invitation. We encourage you attend the event positively and volunteer to be part of the executive committee or nominate passionate individuals who can make a visible difference.

AGM will be followed by a talk to celebrate the Madras Week.

National

2nd International Conference on Academic Libraries – ICAL-2011 focusing on "Planning for Globalizing Academic Libraries" will be held at Hyderabad during November 27-30, 2011. Please get in touch with our Life member and organizing Secretary Dr. M. Koteswara Rao, IGM Library, University of Hyderabad, P.O. Central University, Hyderabad 500046. Tel: 40-23132600; 23010318; Fax: 40-23010193 Mob: +91-9949953399 e-mail: ical2011.uoh at gmail.com

International

Call for Applications: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2012 Access to Learning Award

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is currently accepting applications to its 2012 Access to Learning Award (ATLA), which recognizes the innovative efforts of public libraries and similar institutions outside the United States to connect people to information and opportunities through free access to computers and the Internet. The award is given by Global Libraries, an initiative of the foundation's

Global Development Program. The recipient of the Access to Learning Award will receive \$1 million (U.S.). Check <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/ATLA/Pages/access-to-learning-award-overview.aspx> for complete information.

Free Online

ALA Learning Round Table and OCLC's WebJunction collaborate to offer free online conference Trends in Library Training and Learning: Developing Staff Skills for the 21st Century program is set for August 10–11, 2011. Register at: <http://alalearning.org/>

News You can Use

UGC on Job appointments to PhDs

New Delhi, June 11: A controversial UGC decision that virtually made thousands of PhD holders ineligible for appointment as college or university teachers unless they had cleared the National Eligibility Test is most likely to be withdrawn. Full text of the article by Basant Kumar Mohanty in the Telegraph on June 11, 2011 available at:

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110612/jsp/nation/story_14103169.jsp

Nehru Goes Google

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), the world's leading resource centre on India's first prime minister, has undertaken a massive digitization project. Its archives are being scanned, digitized, linked with metadata and uploaded. "By the month's end, Internet users can access the archives—as they keep being digitized—on our website, www.nehrumemorial.com," says Gopa Sengupta, NMML's project associate in the digitization team. Funded by the ministry of culture, the digitization will cover nine million documents. They hope to finish the job by 2015.

<http://www.livemint.com/2011/06/10203920/Nehru-goes-Google.html>

Usage statistics provide insight into resources

Cardiff University has developed the first generic system in the UK to help education institutions assess the popularity and use of their electronic resources viewed via access management software.

http://www.researchinformation.info/news/news_story.php?news_id=772

"If knowledge can create problems, it is not through ignorance that we can solve them." - Isaac Asimov

Blog Watch

Information Literacy Weblog: news and reports about information literacy around the world:

<http://information-literacy.blogspot.com/>

Information Trends

Sources for Free Ebooks and Ereader Software: <http://newsbreaks.infotoday.com/Spotlight/Sources-for-Free-Ebooks-and-Ereader-Software-75827.asp>

Discussions reveal e-book trends:

http://www.researchinformation.info/features/feature.php?feature_id=323

Just Books in Bangalore

<http://business.in.com/article/work-in-progress/reading-made-easy-why-just-books-libraries-work/25832/1>

Free online technology tools for School Teachers

A new website called 'K-12 Tech Tools' features more than 1,000. The tools are categorized by subject, grade level, and standards. Teachers can share their own tech tools, success stories, and can learn from

